

## Warning of 'social upheaval'

# Tebbit hits at 'U-turn' on Hong Kong

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

MR NORMAN Tebbit last night accused the Government of breaking its election commitments on immigration and said its plans to bring stability to Hong Kong by granting passports to 50,000 families would fail.

The Conservatives had made successive pledges to tighten immigration because "these islands of ours are already overcrowded, and the belief that great waves of immigration by people who do not share our culture, language, rules of social conduct and, in many cases, owe no allegiance to our country was a destabilizing factor in society."

"If we are not to see social upheaval arising from religious, cultural and ethnic differences, we have more than enough to do with integrating existing communities by adding to that burden or exacerbating existing problems."

Leading one of the biggest Conservative revolts since Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, Mr Tebbit said he and others were being forced to choose between the Government on the one hand, and their party's commitment to those who elected it on the other.

That was why he intended to vote against his party's plan for the first time in 20 years in the Commons and "stand by my commitment to the electorate."

Mr Tebbit's speech during the second reading debate of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill was cheered by fellow rebels but drew protests from government supporters.

He said it was clear that the Chinese regarded the Bill as incompatible with the spirit of not letting the second under which Hong Kong will revert to Chinese rule in 1997. They have no use with the concept of dual loyalties and would discriminate against the holders of those passports.

The Hong Kong Chinese knew that and for them the British passport was an inducement not to stay beyond 1997, but to take a new life in Britain or elsewhere. The sooner passports were issued, the sooner 50,000 heads of family would leave, he said.

Would the Government then be asking to provide for another 50,000 so that the "second eleven" could be kept in position in Hong Kong?

Earlier, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, faced frequent interruptions as he said the Government's proposals were the only effective way of restoring confidence and maintaining prosperity in the colony.

Mr Hattersley asked how a debt of honour to five million people in Hong Kong could be repaid by special treatment. "If general confidence is increased by this measure, it will be the first time the morale of the other ranks has been improved by the announcement that the officers are going to retreat first."

Under no circumstances will we introduce a system which requires residents, in theory equal before the law, to compete with each other for a limited number of passports. The system was arbitrary, divisive and its effect would be capricious.

Labour did not intend "to play the numbers game", but certain groups of people would be offered immediate entry to Britain. "The next Labour Government will pursue the path towards democracy at the speed that was always asked for by the people of Hong Kong and was once offered to the people of Hong Kong by the Government."

Labour would apply its own policy of nationality and immigration and there were certain categories of Hong Kong residents who would immediately qualify for entry into this country.

The non-ethnic Chinese, mostly East African Asians who look like Hong Kongers and would be stateless in 1997, would be allowed in, and time spent by students would make up part of the qualifying period for naturalisation.

Labour would also grant citizenship to public servants who had worked abroad in colonial administrations and to others in particular need.

"This Bill is intended to disarm the most vocal and influential minority and therefore make it easier for the Government to follow that course."

Mr Edward Heath backed the Government, saying that it had taken the only course open to it.

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Political sketch, page 22

Parliament, page 7  
Political sketch, page 22

## Thatcher blames tube firms over Iraqi gun

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MRS Margaret Thatcher yesterday blamed Sheffield Forgemasters and Walter Fox, the companies involved in the production of steel tubes for the Iraqi gun, for failing to apply for export licences.

During bitter Commons exchanges Mr Neil Kinnock accused her of "devious evasion" while the Opposition continued to demand a fuller government statement than that provided on Wednesday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mrs Thatcher said that if

the companies had sought a licence for the export of military equipment it would have been refused. It was their duty accurately to describe the product they wished to export.

Sir Hal Miller, the Conservative MP who has said he warned the Government two years ago that one company, Walter Fox, was worried that the orders were not what they seemed to be, said yesterday that he would be writing to the Prime Minister.

Company folds, page 2  
Parliament, page 7  
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## Dick Tracy taking on the bats and turtles

From Charles Bremner, New York

TODAY is T-day minus 55 in America. The fedora factories are working overtime, the department stores are readying their boutiques, the market for wrist radios is hotting up and the advertisements are everywhere.

Dick Tracy, the film, is on its way. For anyone who thought *Ninja Turtles* and *Batman* provided quite enough marketed mania for this century, this will not be welcome news. By June 15, when the cinema projectors finally flicker into life to reveal Warren Beatty and Madonna as the eponymous comic-strip detective and Breathless Mahoney, his floozy, nary a citizen of the United States will be left untouched.

With the Hollywood financial stakes catapulting into the stratosphere, the Walt Disney company and Beatty, who

is producer-director as well as star, have thrown their heaviest artillery into a marketing operation aimed at beating the \$250 million (£153 million) so far earned by *Batman*.

Disney, which has already spent about \$30 million, hopes the film will be a "tent-pole" in Hollywood parlance a blockbuster that earns so much it will provide enough money to support a stream of lesser releases.

A decade in the making, *Dick Tracy* follows the now familiar path of bringing a stylized comic-strip hero to the screen, complete with its own ready-made conventions and insider jokes.

Where *Batman* was staged in half-light and menacing gloom, the gimmick this time hinges on a palate of primary colours. Everything, from costumes to the make-believe Chicago of the late 1930s sticks as closely as possible to the

yellow, black and red world of the newspaper strip.

The experts of Madison Avenue believe that, after the ambiguities of the 1980s, consumers are ripe for the simple moral world inhabited by private eyes, beautiful dames and classic bad guys with names like *Itchy* and *Mumbles* and *Big Boy* (played by Al Pacino).

"There is the notion that decency is becoming more prevalent and that greed isn't cut any more," said Mr Peter Kim, consumer behaviour director for J. Walter Thompson USA.

"It's not fancy and it's not subtle," Beatty, aged 52, concedes in something of an understatement. For him, success will redeem him from the status of ageing Lothario and rescue his career from the near oblivion inflicted three years ago by *Ishtar*, his last film and one of Hollywood's biggest disasters.



Beatty as Dick Tracy in a world of simple values

## US seeks united stance on Lithuania

From Anatol Lieven, in Vilnius and Our Foreign Staff

AS THE Soviet Union increased pressure on Lithuania with heavy cuts in gas supplies yesterday, the West co-ordinated its response and Moscow attempted to buy off an expected Latvian declaration of independence.

While Britain appeared uncertain about how to react, an indication of growing tension between Moscow and Washington over Lithuania came in a Soviet Foreign Ministry statement which condemned "individual politicians and public figures following in the footsteps of the mass media" for "noticeably stepping up a propaganda campaign" and "inadmissible interference" in Soviet domestic affairs.

It accused the "initiators and participants in the campaign" of "taking aim at the peaceful revolution unfolding across the Soviet Union". They should understand that "the acute situation caused by extremist elements in the Lithuanian leadership cannot be defused in this way".

President Bush has begun consulting allied leaders about appropriate responses to the Soviet moves against Lithuania. He spoke to President Mitterrand of France yesterday and to Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, on Wednesday, but Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, played down the prospect of joint Nato or Western action.

The US approach is that Washington would rather not see it as "the Lithuanian crisis", Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, has begun a careful programme of preparing American public opinion for a policy of preferring Soviet reform to Baltic aspiration.

In Oslo, Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, found the moral support she sought when the Norwegian Government called in Mr Aleksandr Teterin, the Soviet Ambassador, and delivered a formal protest at Moscow's actions.

Both she and her Foreign

## US team ready for hostage release

From Martin Fletcher, Washington, and Juan Carlos Guncuio, west Beirut

THE Bush Administration made preparations for the imminent release of an American hostage from Lebanon yesterday as US expectations rose.

The White House said diplomatic communications from Syria had lent credence to Wednesday's message from the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that one of three US hostages would be freed within 48 hours. And in Beirut, a source close to the Syrians told *The Times* that the release could take place at "any moment".

Escorted by Syrian security forces, the released hostage would then be driven to Damascus and handed over to American diplomats in a symbolic ceremony aimed at underlining the role of Presi-

dent Assad of Syria in the resolution of the crisis.

A US hostage reception team has been sent to an American military base at Wiesbaden, West Germany, which has received previous freed US hostages, and Mr Edward Dierjian, US Ambassador to Syria, has returned to Damascus from Bonn.

But prospects for a smooth release have been complicated by the intensification of violence between Amal and Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim allies of Syria and Iran, respectively.

Although it was not clear who would be freed, militia sources said they expected to see Mr Robert Polhill, an academic seized in 1987.

Uphill fight, page 10

## Paris-Bonn challenge to Thatcher on EC unity

By Philip Jacobson in Paris, and Philip Webster in London

IN A clear challenge to Mrs Thatcher, France and West Germany yesterday declared their intention to push for political as well as economic union by January 1, 1993.

For her part, the Prime Minister is now prepared to take Britain into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System before the next election, according to Cabinet sources.

In a joint statement the French and German leaders said: "We think the moment has arrived to transform the whole relationship between member states (of the EC) into a European union, and to provide the means for taking the necessary actions."

The uncompromising message, calling for the issue to put on the agenda of the Dublin summit on Saturday week, was sent jointly by President Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, to Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, in his capacity as EC president.

Cabinet sources say the Prime Minister has convinced

her close Cabinet colleagues that after a long period of resistance to entry, she accepts that the conditions she has set for entry to the exchange rate mechanism will be met.

Entry could come sooner than has so far been assumed because of the way the Government decides to compare Britain's inflation rate with that of its European partners when it considers joining.

Reducing the level of inflation to around that of the rest of the Community is the key condition for joining. The Government is almost certain to exclude the mortgage rate and the impact of the community charge from the calculation it uses to assess the underlying rate of inflation in Britain.

The timing of the Franco-German declaration for the very day on which M Mitterrand was meeting President Bush in Florida suggests that France took the lead in throwing down the gauntlet to the British Government.

The joint statement is also intended to signal that France and West Germany are back

working together as the power-houses of the Community. As the Elysée Palace sees it, enlisting Herr Kohl's crucial support on an issue over which France has always made the running effectively repairs any damage their special relationship suffered when the question of a united Germany's border with Poland was causing difficulties.

The content of yesterday's message to Mr Haughey reflects quite strikingly the language that M Mitterrand has been using recently in outlining his concept of "the European confederation". It is no secret that he believes that swifter integration on all fronts within the EC is the only possible response to the challenge of change in Eastern Europe.

In view of Mrs Thatcher's known antipathy, their joint appeal for "unity and coherence ... in the economic, monetary and political domain" can only be viewed as a calculated challenge to London.

German neutrality, page 9

## Court fight on Twyford Down route

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE decision by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, to drive the final section of the M3 through Twyford Down in Hampshire, one of the most heavily protected landscapes in England, is to be challenged in the High Court next week.

Local campaigners are to seek leave for a judicial review of the controversial decision. It involves carving a cutting 400ft wide and 100ft deep, through the downland, which has five separate landscape protection designations.

Members of the Winchester Joint Action Group have been told there are good grounds for believing that Mr Parkinson's granting permission for the motorway to go through the downland, after a 19-year battle, may be flawed in law. It is understood that a key factor may be a confidential Department of Transport report, commissioned last year, into the possibility that the motorway may need eight lanes instead of the six presently planned, to accommodate future traffic loads.

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b. 9% interest.  
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# Estate agents face ban over dishonest descriptions

By Christopher Warman  
Property Correspondent

ESTATE agents who act dishonestly or unethically by wrongly describing properties or failing to disclose personal interests could be banned under measures announced yesterday by Mr Eric Forth, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

Other practices such as pressuring home buyers into using financial services and falsely claiming that higher bids exist for a house will also lead to a ban under new orders within the Estate Agents Act, 1979 which Mr Forth intends to introduce. He said the tougher

penalties against unscrupulous agents should be in place by the end of the year.

The Minister's proposals, announced in the House of Commons, are in line with the recommendations of the Director General of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, who reported last month on the estate agency industry after two years of government scrutiny.

Both he and the minister had wanted the industry to agree on a voluntary code of practice, but this had not been achieved. "I have noted with regret the director general's conclusion that there is little prospect of agreement in the

immediate future on an industry-wide code of practice," Mr Forth said. "However, I consider that the package of legislation I proposed deals with the main problems. It should deal effectively with the malpractices identified among a minority of estate agents, while not imposing significant burdens on reputable agents."

The changes to the Estate Agents Act, which can be implemented comparatively quickly, will include the requirement for agents to spell out the terms of their contract with a vendor. Mr Forth also intends to extend the Trade Descriptions Act, 1968, to cover wrong descriptions of property. That needs new legisla-

tion, which would be introduced "when time allows".

Both Mr Forth and Sir Gordon rejected a call by estate agents' bodies for the introduction of a test of competence. Mr Forth told a press conference yesterday that he believed the main problem was of ethics and honesty, not competence. "We believe it is unnecessary and undesirable to bring in a test of competence because it provides a barrier against entry into the industry and would require some sort of bureaucracy."

Mr Forth said his department continued to receive a steady flow of complaints about estate agents, now running at between five and

10 a week, far fewer than in the property boom of two years ago. Ninety-nine agents have been banned since the introduction of the Estate Agents Act in 1979.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors last night welcomed the announcement. Commenting on the measure which will subject estate agents to the Trade Descriptions Act, it said, "It is indefensible that until now this has not been the case."

The institution remained convinced of the need for a statutory code of conduct that would bind all practising agents through licensing and a minimum standard of competence. "A voluntary code of

practice would not have encompassed those fringe operators who are not members of any recognized professional body or organization."

Mr Trevor Kent, president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said: "We are happy with the balance of control of our business and consumer protection and we believe the public will be better protected by these proposals."

He emphasized his concern at the absence of a test of competence, which left the 20 per cent of agents who do not belong to the professional bodies able to carry on without qualifications.

## Teachers' strike over jobs could start next week

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE first strikes in schools over plans to make teachers redundant could begin next week, the leader of Britain's second largest teachers' union said yesterday.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, was speaking after the union's annual conference in Scarborough had voted unanimously to strike if teachers' jobs were threatened.

The delegates, representing 118,000 teachers, did not go as far, however, as the larger National Union of Teachers, whose conference voted earlier in the week to stage national strikes despite warnings from its leaders that such a course would be illegal.

Mr de Gruchy said he could

not exclude the possibility that this summer's GCSE and A level examinations would be affected in schools where teachers went on strike.

The NAS/UTW estimates that 15,000 of the 400,000 teachers in England and Wales could lose their jobs as governments struggle to balance the books with new school budgets based on pupil numbers. The Government has insisted that the element in the budget for teachers' salaries must be based on the average in the area rather than on the actual cost to individual schools.

As a result, schools with large numbers of experienced staff at the top of the pay scales will not have enough money to pay them all.

Ministers argue that the process exposes schools to the "economic realities of life" but Mr de Gruchy said it was "perverse and doctrinaire".

He called on school governors to resign rather than being "forced into acting as the Government's hatchet people".

He said the union expected the first confrontations to be in Nottinghamshire, where 50 schools have announced that they plan to cut 185 jobs.

Mr de Gruchy said that the union would use its £5 million strike fund to support one-day "warning strikes" which could be followed up by all-out stoppages if the NUT and other unions were prepared to join in.

"We will not hesitate to use strike action if the jobs of our members are threatened," he said, "but we have got to think carefully about our strategy."

During an angry debate delegates added a strongly worded clause to the strike motion replacing a general call for action with a specific

demand for "school-based strikes" and a national strike levy.

Mrs Sue Rogers, vice-president, told the conference that the formula for school budgets under the Local Management of Schools scheme was blind and dogmatic. "We have been accused of scare-mongering by the Government, but we have done no more than state the truth."

"What kind of Alice in Wonderland world do we live in when on the one hand we are talking about trying to recruit teachers to deal with a shortage and at the same time we are facing redundancies?"

"This is the Victorian madhouse of Thatcherism — a madhouse dominated by one issue, money."

Sixty per cent of schools would lose money under the new formula funding system and parents would soon feel the effects as their children lost teachers.

"I believe parents will stand with us shoulder to shoulder when they see the teachers their children need going out of the system," she said.

Mr Colin Lambert, from Rochdale, said that poll tax capping was making matters even worse in the borough, where £4 million would be cut from the education budget.

Mr Steve Wilson, a teacher from Wigan, said that £9.1 million was being cut from its budget because of capping.

Mr Ray Barry, from Barnsley, predicted that 400 jobs would go in his area alone as a result of a £2.5 million education budget cut forced by capping.

Mr Ian Crossland, from Walsall, West Midlands, said: "For the sake of our children education must be the best possible, and not just the cheapest."

## Delegates taken ill

ABOUT a hundred delegates to the National Union of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers conference have been affected by an outbreak of food poisoning, prompting the general secretary, Mr Nigel de Gruchy, to call in environmental health officials.

Most of the victims were staying at the four-star Royal Hotel, although delegates staying at other hotels were also taken ill, and the search for the cause was continuing yesterday.

All of the union's national executive members and foreign guests were staying at the Royal, yesterday's conference session was marked by frequent exits from the platform.

Mr de Gruchy said: "Everyone seems to be going down with it, but the conference must go on." One union official, however, argued that the outbreak was having one beneficial effect: "It certainly seems to have cut the length of some of the speeches."

## More nurseries to get tax exemption

By Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor

MORE nursery places are to qualify for exemption from taxation when employers subsidise them for the children of employees. The Finance Bill, published yesterday, extends the tax concession, which came into force on April 6, to places at independent nurseries in certain circumstances.

Where an employer provides a place at a nursery run by others, the employee may escape an extra tax bill if the employer is involved in the management of the nursery. This will mean that the employee will no longer have to pay tax on the difference between the cost to the employer and that charged to the employee.

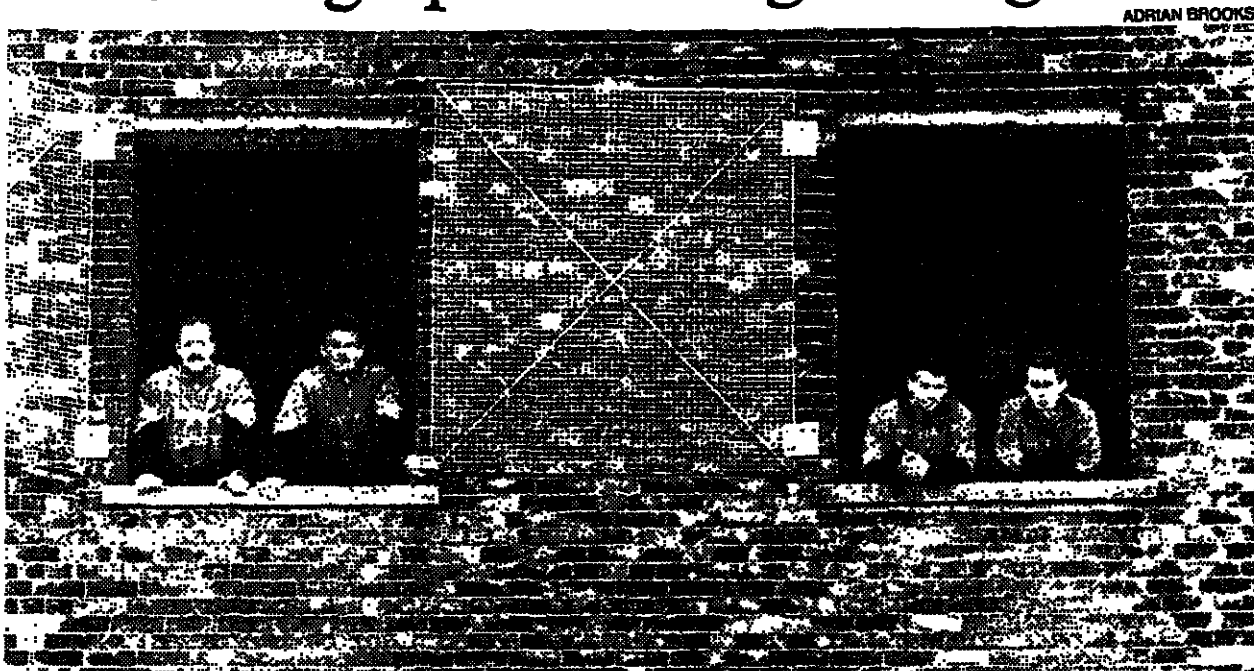
An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "The employer would have to take responsibility for the workplace nursery at which it provides places and should have a member on the management committee of the nursery. The care of the children can be sub-contracted and the premises can be provided by the nursery or another employer."

"It could be freehold, leasehold or a hall hired on licence, but it cannot be domestic premises."

The Bill states that where joint participants are involved, there should be shared responsibility for management and finance.

It is estimated by the organization Working for Children that only 120 employers run crèches, providing about 3,000 places for the children of

## Warming up for firefighters' games



Ten of the London Fire Brigade's fittest men line up in a "practice tower" at headquarters: they were picked to represent the brigade in the first world firefighter games in Auckland, New Zealand, which begin on Sunday

## Governor says Strangeways has accounted for all its prisoners

By Ronald Faux

ALL the 1,648 inmates who were in Strangeways prison on April 1, when the worst riot in British prison history began, are accounted for, Mr Brendan O'Neil, the prison governor, said yesterday.

He said that not until prison staff had made a careful search of the building would he be able to put his hand on his heart and say "there are no bodies", but all the evidence suggested that everyone had been accounted for, including the seven men still in the prison building.

Throughout the siege, now in its 20th day, Mr O'Neil has admitted that there might be a body or bodies among the piles of wreckage.

Reports from prisoners who gave themselves up and sources within the emergency services suggested that inmates had been hanged or mutilated during the riot.

Now it seems the lurid stories were untrue or mistaken in the wild violence of the riot. Only one prisoner died: Derek White, aged 46.



Mr O'Neil: Negotiation and pressure will go on

remanded for sexual offences, who died in hospital from head injuries.

Mr O'Neil would not comment on how the stories of bodies and executions gained currency. He repeated that the strategy of negotiation and pressure on the remaining inmates would continue.

It had always been clear that the last handful would be more difficult, but there was no reason to change the strategy and tactics.

The governor said that the authorities had received some tape recordings from relatives of prisoners still in the jail which he hoped the prisoners

would be able to listen to. The messages are understood to contain appeals to the men to give themselves up.

Mr O'Neil said peaceful persuasion would remain the main tactic, but other options had not been ruled out. He believed that the men could be persuaded to come down. The siege, he said, might collapse soon or continue for some days.

Water would continue to be used against the prisoners. In spite of their act of bravado, this was unpopular with them, and an effective way of reducing their stocks and supplies. Things were not as nice, he

said, as the prisoners would like to present them.

Overcrowding was blamed last night for a jail breakout which went unnoticed until police started to round up prisoners on the run (Michael Horsnell writes).

Seven men broke out of a workshop at Gloucester prison that had been converted into a temporary dormitory, but only one was still free last night.

An inquiry into the incident was launched by Mr John Aldridge, governor of the prison which now holds 140 more inmates than its official capacity of 190.

## Belgian gun link firm closes

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

THE Space Research Corporation, linked in some reports with the construction of a large gun for Iraq, yesterday said that it was going into liquidation, but denied that it had been involved in any illegal activities.

It said: "The Bull family has decided to cease all SRC operations and dissolve the companies within the SRC group. The Bull family consists of or to have been involved in any illegal acts or any traffic of any nature."

Mr Michael Bull, son of the late Gerald Bull, was in Brussels on Wednesday, and denied any former involvement of his father and the Space Research Corporation in construction of the cannon.

Liquidation of SRC came on the same day as another company, long linked with SRC, struggled to stave off bankruptcy.

Poudreries Réunies de Belgique, sold six months ago to the British-based company Astra Plc, employs 1,500 workers in the Liège region, and is among the last remaining manufacturers of gunpowder and munitions in Belgium.

The big Belgian holding company Société Générale de Belgique indicated it might help the company financially.

Astra bought PRB for around £1 million, and assumed debts of almost three times as much. The company lost money last year, in a general decline in the international arms and munitions market, and Astra refused to support PRB any longer. Mr Chris Gumbley, former head of Astra, was rumoured to have met Gerald Bull a day before he was murdered.

More than 24 hours after Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, confirmed the Iraqi "oil pipes" were gun components, the Government had still not expressed its displeasure to Baghdad yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq won more Arab support against his Western critics yesterday when trade union leaders from 20 countries demonstrated outside the British and United States embassies in Baghdad (Michael Theodorou writes).

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## Colliery closure signals end of era

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

MORE than 600 miners in the South Wales coalfield learned yesterday they had lost the battle to save their pit and accused British Coal of betraying their community.

Angry miners considered the closure of Blaenau colliery, near Neath, as virtually the end of an industry in the area which had once fuelled the British Empire.

The closure of the colliery, which has lost more than £5m in the past 12 months, signals the end of an era for a community that spearheaded an industrial revolution based on the premise that coal was king.

Now, there are only 3,100 miners working five pits in South Wales, while Japanese companies, now established in the area, employ more than 7,000 workers in electronic assembly jobs.

Japanese is being taught in Welsh schools and mines have been turned into museums as, in the words of the Welsh comedian Max Boyce, the "pit-head baths are supermarkets now".

Once, the region, a spawning ground of deep rooted socialism, had more than 250,000 miners. Before the end of the year-long miners' strike, in 1985, 22,000 men were still employed in 28 collieries in South Wales.

Yesterday, Mr Terence Wheatley, British Coal's South Wales group director, said the decision to close the pit was no reflection on the miners who had worked hard. Worsening geology, he said, had led to the losses.

"Output at Blaenau has fallen to well below half its required level because of the geology and has no prospect of consistently matching its break-even targets of 15,000 tonnes a week", he said.

Paying tribute to the miners who had tried to save the pit, a mainstay of the local economy, Mr Wheatley added: "These circumstances can only be regretted at a colliery where team effort has been frequently unsparing, but they give no hope for recovery."

Mr Phil Bowen, the National Union of Mineworkers' lodge secretary at Blaenau, who has worked for 25 years at the pit, said: "The men are gutted and have no faith in British Coal to do a proper job. There are many years of valuable coal reserves but the board is just not interested in exploiting them for the nation."

Mr Donald Coleman, the local Labour MP, accused British Coal of pursuing a policy of closing deep mines without regard to the social consequences. "They have betrayed the people," he said.

Although there will be no compulsory redundancies when the pit closes, most of the men are expected to opt for British Coal's improved redundancy terms that offer lump sums of up to £37,000 for long serving miners.

A spokesman for Neath Borough Council said the closure was a "bitter blow" and justified the wisdom of its decision to develop a business park.

Mr Cledwyn James, the chairman of Neath's industry and development committee said: "It is indeed a bitter pill to swallow and will have a marked effect on the community."

Japanese college, page 19

## London riot looter is jailed

A LOOTER arrested during last month's riot tax riots was jailed for 14 days yesterday for stealing a pen.

"You stole the item from the shop in the context of the violence and considerable disturbance to public order of March 31," Mr Terry Maher, Magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, told Ronald McDowall, a first-time offender. "A deterrent sentence is in my view essential to deter you and others."

McDowall, aged 21, a £9,300 a year secretarial training instructor of Daubeney Road, Clapton, admitted looting the pen, valued at £165, from a store in Regent Street.

Earlier, the magistrate imposed a fine of £100 on Robert Hislop, a jobless computer operator, aged 22, of Rolt Street, Deptford, who admitted dishonestly handling a £10 bottle of after-shave.

Mrs Olive O'Brien, a housewife, aged 57, of Burnell Avenue, Welling, Kent, was fined £15 after admitting smashing a Ministry of Defence window in Whitehall.

Duncan Harbour, a historian, aged 19, of Fitzroy Street, London, was fined £20 for highway obstruction.

Eleven other men arrested during the disturbances were remanded on bail.

## Police action

Three police officers — Inspector Derek Watts, Sergeant Colin Langstone and Police Constable Nigel Parlane — are to apply to the High Court to overturn a magistrates' ruling that they should face criminal proceedings on charges connected with the 1987 Wapping industrial dispute.

## Flights halted

British Airways has cancelled seven flights to Paris today because of a 24-hour air traffic controllers' strike in France. Air France is aiming to run four flights from Heathrow, but dropped 14 services from other London airports.

## Ministry bomb

A MAN was seriously hurt yesterday when a mortar bomb exploded at an historical arms collection in Nottingham. The explosion took place at the Ministry of Defence's Pattern Room at the Chilwell Royal Ordnance Depot. The collection is centuries old. An internal inquiry has begun.

## Dane chess lead

Bent Larsen, the Danish grandmaster, is leading the field after two rounds in the Watson Farley and Williams Grandmaster chess tournament in the City of London. He survived a fierce attack from Daniel King, the London grandmaster, in the all-play-all grandmaster event.

## Man shot by soldiers was 'on active service'

By Edward Gorman  
Irish Affairs Correspondent

A man shot dead by soldiers near Armagh on Wednesday night was "on active service", a Republican paramilitary organization said yesterday.

In a telephone call to the BBC in Belfast, the Irish People's Liberation Organization, a tiny but fanatical Republican splinter group, said that Martin Corrigan, aged 26, was a member of the organization.

The IPLO was banned by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, at the end of last month after it emerged from nearly 12 months of inactivity to murder a Belfast Protestant, apparently in retaliation for a series of "Loyalist" killings in the city. Corrigan, a father

of two young sons, died at about 10pm on Wednesday after being spotted by members of an Army foot patrol with a number of armed and masked men in the grounds of the home of a part-time police reservist in the Kinneag district outside Armagh.

Police said that the soldiers opened fire, killing Corrigan who, according to reports, was hit in the back. Police said the patrol was part of routine security and had not been involved in a planned ambush.

A big security operation continued yesterday throughout the rural Lislesley Road area of Kinneag as police announced that they had arrested a man who was being questioned in connection with the incident. Police also put on display

two sawn-off shotguns which had been found loaded at the scene.

Corrigan, who lived in Railway Street, Armagh, is the 21st person to die in the troubles this year. His father, Peter Corrigan, was shot dead by "Loyalist" gunmen in the town in 1982.

Martin Corrigan's involvement in what appears to have been an attempt to kill the police reservist comes after two IRA killings of policemen in the Armagh area this year.

The two killings led to a review of security for police living around Armagh and there was speculation that the Army's intervention on Wednesday night may have been the first fruits of intensified patrolling.

• The African National Congress last

night challenged a Conservative MP to repeat outside the Commons an allegation that two of its members had met a leader of the Provisional IRA (Richard Ford writes).

The ANC denied the claim made during Prime Minister's questions and strongly attacked Mr Andrew Hunter for making it.

The ANC said that Mr Hunter, MP for Basingstoke, should make the claim without the protection of parliamentary privilege so it could have recourse against his deliberate misinformation.

Mr Hunter had asked Mrs Thatcher to investigate reports emerging in Northern Ireland that two ANC members were in Downpatrick, Co Down, on April 4.





# 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

- 1** Your local council sets your Community Charge, not the Government.
- 2** Just over a quarter of the cost of local council services is paid for by the Community Charge. The rest, nearly three quarters, is paid for by business and the tax-payer.
- 3** Nearly half the cost of local services is paid from tax payers' money. So top rate tax payers pay much more than people with low incomes. In fact the 'rich' pay at least 10 times more toward the cost of local services than the 'poor'.
- 4** People on low incomes, students and many old age pensioners are entitled to a reduction often as high as 80%. This means that one in four local voters don't pay the full Charge - 10 million people will benefit.
- 5** If your Community Charge is more than £156 higher than last year's rates bill, the Government will pay the difference up to the Charge it estimated for your local council based on their previous spending. Check your bill - over 7 million people will benefit.
- 6** The Government are capping the 21 worst overspending councils (all Labour) to reduce the Charge and protect local people.
- 7** Labour are actively seeking to make your Community Charge as high as they can get away with. On the list of the 50 worst overspenders, you will find Labour and SLD councils but no Conservatives.
- 8** Labour have set the highest Community Charges in Britain. 30 of their MPs want to pass their bills on to others by not paying them. Labour dare not tell you their alternative to the Community Charge.
- 9** On average Conservative councils are charging you £89 for every £100 that Labour councils are charging. In London and the Metropolitan Districts on average Conservative councils are charging you £74 for every £100 that Labour councils are charging.
- 10** Labour councils cost you more. Conservative councils cost you less.

CONSERVATIVE COUNCILS COST YOU LESS





# Breast test drive 'does more harm than good'

By Thomson Prestice, Science Correspondent

BRITAIN'S recently introduced national breast cancer screening programme, aimed at reducing the annual toll of about 15,000 deaths from the disease, is endangering the lives of many of the women it is meant to protect, according to an expert report published yesterday.

Professor Michael Baum, an eminent breast cancer surgeon, said in the report that implementation of the programme should be slowed down because it was doing more harm than good in some cases.

It was "flooding clinics with frightened women" and could lead to some of them undergoing unnecessary mastectomies and other surgical procedures on the basis of mistaken diagnoses, he said yesterday.

It was already putting such pressure on screening services that patients most in need of urgent clinical attention were having to wait longer.

Professor Baum, professor of surgery at the Royal Marsden Hospital in west London, is author of a critical foreword in the report, produced by the Greater London Association of Community Health Councils, on breast cancer diagnostic services.

## Scrutiny is urged over transplants

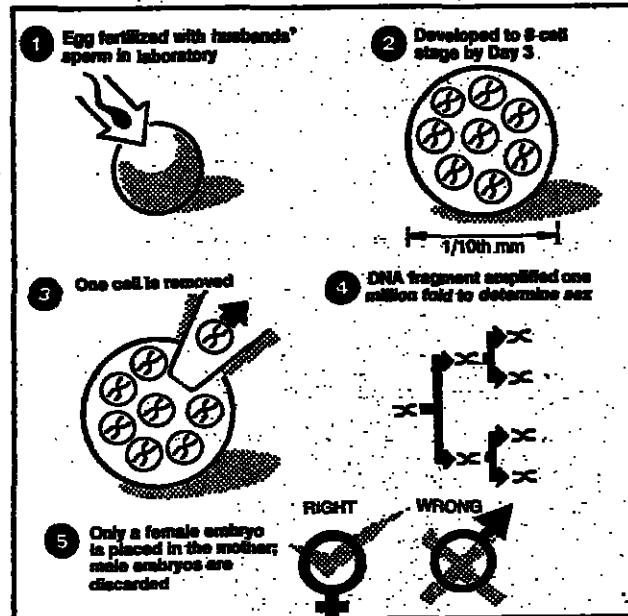
By Kerry Gill

TRANSPLANT surgery, including the use of animal organs, is morally acceptable, but there must be continued moral scrutiny and public debate on the issue of brain death diagnosis, according to a report published today by the Social Responsibility Board of the Church of Scotland.

Its transplants study group says there must be continued monitoring on whether parents should make decisions on the use of foetal material in research and surgery.

Christians should consider carrying "transplant donor cards", but anonymity should be maintained for organ donors, says the report to be offered to the church's general assembly next month. The group says transplant therapy "is one of the most remarkable and hopeful advances in modern medical care".

The ethical issues over the use of foetal tissue must however be closely examined; who, for instance, should give consent for its use as a result of a mother's decision to terminate a pregnancy?



## Watchdog backs embryo checks

By Our Science Correspondent

THE ability of scientists to prevent gender-linked inherited diseases by determining the sex of a human embryo before pregnancy was welcomed yesterday by the watchdog group that monitors such research.

Professor Robert Winston and colleagues at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, have achieved healthy pregnancies in three women with a family history of incurable hereditary disorders.

The women will all have baby girls as a result of an advanced *in vitro* fertilization technique that screened out male embryos at risk of the disorders. Dame Mary Donaldson, chairman of the Interim Licensing Authority, said yesterday that the Hammersmith work had been closely observed by the authority, which was satisfied that it was safe and effective.

As a counter to potential ethical objections to the technique, she said the authority received assurances from Professor Winston that "in no

circumstances would it be used for social reasons". Diagnosis by means of identifying the gender of the embryos would be an interim measure until it was possible for scientists to detect the specific disease, she said.

The technique could influence MPs who next week will be given a free vote on whether to ban embryo research when they debate the Human Fertilization and Embryo Bill. Yesterday Mr Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton North East, and his wife Sarah, published *Hope For A Family*, a booklet supporting the technique.

Mr Thurnham said: "For couples who know they are at risk of producing a child with severe hereditary disease, planning a family at present means fear and often tragedy."

"These families could in future be offered the chance of *in vitro* fertilization and rapid diagnosis. A ban on embryo research could close the door on many possible, and as yet untold, benefits."

## Farmers paid to preserve landscape

By Peter Davenport

THE view over Mr Eric Featherstone's farm at the head of the Upper Farndale valley in the North York Moors National Park has changed little since his grandfather began working the same fields more than a century ago.

Now, in a pioneering scheme that may set the pattern for other national parks, Mr Featherstone and nine other farmers in Farndale, an area of dramatic beauty known as the "Valley of the Daffodils" because of the brilliant yellow flowers that carpet many of the fields, are to be paid to conserve and improve the countryside.

Under an experimental programme launched by the North York Moors National Park, they will be paid up to £5,000 a year for undertaking such work as repairing dry-stone walls, planting hawthorn hedges, mending farm buildings in traditional materials, creating hay meadows and encouraging wildlife.

It is the first scheme of its kind to be introduced in Britain.

Mr Peter Barfoot, the farm conservation officer for the park, which covers 552 square miles and attracts some 11 million visitors a year, said: "Agricultural support has always been tuned purely to



View of the future: Eric Featherstone conserving his farm under the experimental scheme initiated by the North York Moors National Park

production, and it has not always been to the good of the landscape or wildlife. The philosophy is that farmers should get some type of financial support for producing the kind of countryside and landscape people want to see."

The scheme, which is to be formally launched on Monday

by Mr David Curry, the Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is based on a five-year agreement between the National Park Authority and the farmer, drawn up under Section 39 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Funds will be provided to

farmers in two ways: annual payments for maintaining features such as dry-stone walls, hedges, traditional farm buildings and public rights of way; and grants for improvement works, such as walling and tree planting.

The National Park has budgeted £50,000 for the scheme

this year with a doubling of the funds to £100,000 next year. If the scheme is judged to be successful at the end of the five-year programme, it is hoped to have secured enough money to expand it to all 850 eligible farms within the park.

The scheme is open to farmers who spend at least

half their working life on the farm and gain at least half their income from the land.

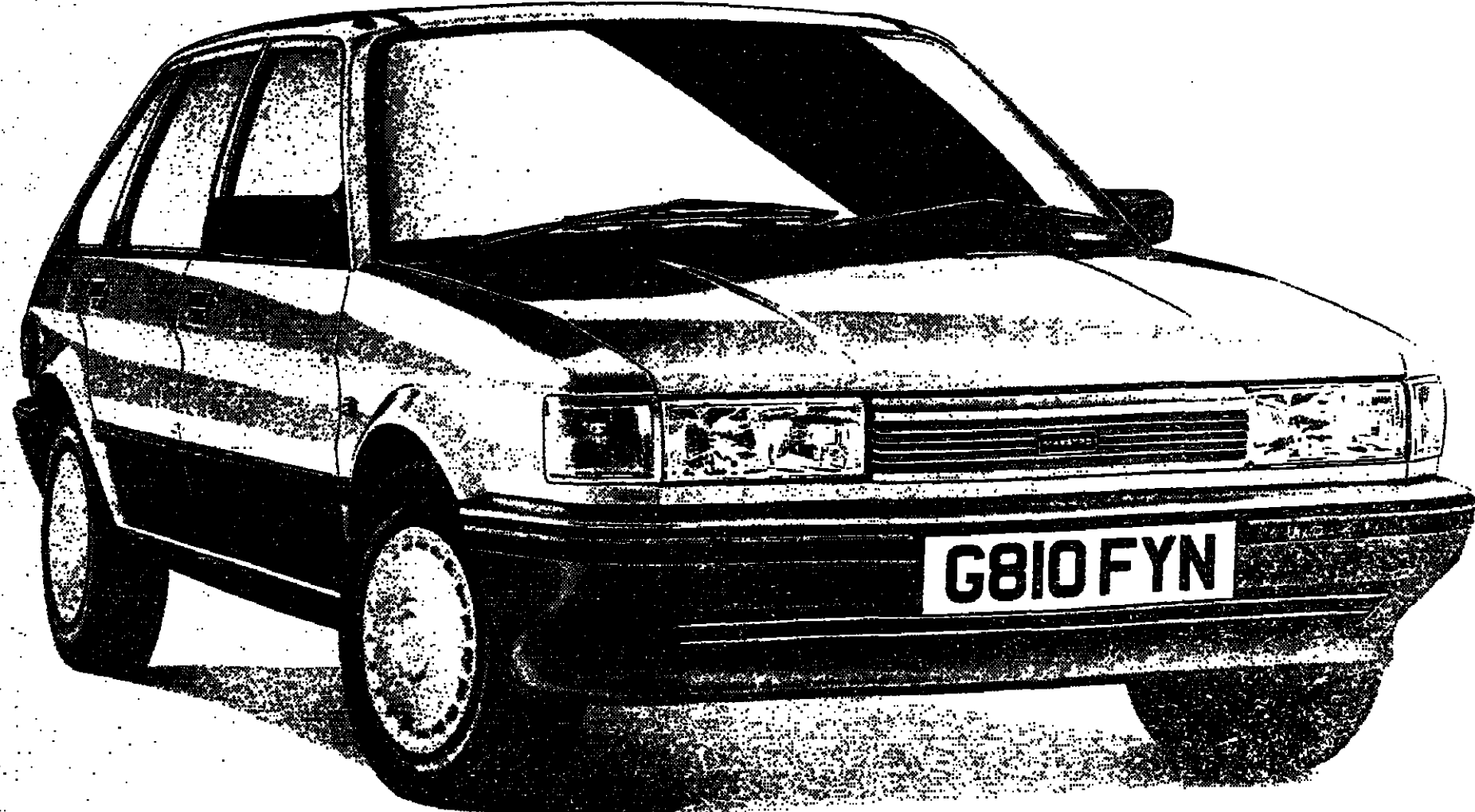
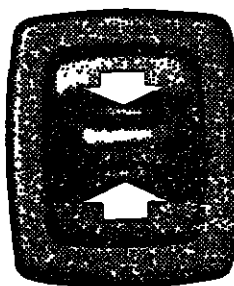
Mr Derek Statham, the National Park Officer, said: "We hope the scheme will fuel interest at Government and European levels. It could have a far reaching effect well into the 21st century."

# The new Maestro LX. More power to your elbow.

Do yourself a power of good. Take a look at the new Maestro 1.3 LX for just £8,525\* or the new Maestro 1.6 LX for just £9,010\*.

Both have a slide and tilt sunroof and four speaker stereo. Both have central door locking and a programme wash/wipe system. And, for those people who get wound up about windows, the new Maestros also come complete with electric front windows.

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# Councils unite to challenge capping

By Ray Clancy

COUNCILS that have been community charge capped by the Government joined yesterday to mount a legal challenge against Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The challenge, based on the argument that the criteria used to choose which councils were capped was unlawful, if successful would result in the capping system being declared illegal.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour spokesman on the environment, welcomed the challenge and said it would prove "the final come-uppance" for the poll tax. "Everyone knows

that poll tax capping was a political fix."

In the High Court on Tuesday most of the 21 capped authorities will add their names to an application to seek a judicial review which has been lodged by the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The leaders of the councils, who meet on Monday to finalize the legal details of the challenge, are confident of success but said the action is likely to be long and difficult. Only authorities whose case stands a good chance of success will be in court on Tuesday but others can join the action later.

"We believe we have a very powerful case," Mr Roger Berry, leader of the Labour group on Avon County Council which has no overall political control, said.

Miss Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington council in north London and chairman of the Association of London Authorities, which represents nine of the 21 councils, said it was only right that they should share costs by mounting an "umbrella action."

A timetable will be agreed on Monday. "We will determine which authorities are most appropriate to further the principal arguments and which authorities have the best cases in terms of their specific situations to ensure success against the Secretary of State," Miss Hodge said.

"This action is going to be difficult but we feel that on the grounds of legality, the way in which Mr Patten sought to define which authorities were to be capped, we have got to put our case. We think the way the capped authorities were selected was unfair, arbitrary and politically motivated."

Although each authority has a different position, the legal challenge will centre on the main issues of unfairness and legality yet allow specific issues to be brought out if necessary.

Counsel representing the authorities will argue in the High Court that Mr Patten did not use his discretion fairly, that by using the standard spending assessment as the method of capping he acted outside the Local Government Finance Act 1989, and that he used political considerations in singling out non-Conservative controlled councils for capping.

Mr Patten has already said he is confident the capping will stand up in court and has pointed out that all legal challenges to rate capping in the past had failed. The Department of the Environment said last night capping would not have gone ahead unless the Government believed it was "legally watertight."

Leading article, page 13



Members of the Green Party, carrying a spanner to put in the works of the community charge, parading outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday against the poll tax. The spanner wielder, Mr David Fitzpatrick, aged 36, a computer lecturer and local election candidate in Hackney, east London, said: "We are not saying people should not pay. But we are the only party that will support people who do not pay."

## Conservatives count on advertising blitz

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Conservative Party yesterday launched a belated advertising blitz designed to make the case for the community charge.

In spite of the evidence of opinion polls, Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, asserted at a Westminster press conference: "The community charge is a winner."

Today's national newspapers carry advertisements headed "Ten things you should know about the Community Charge", emphasizing the number of community charge payers who are given help with payments.

One in four local voters, more than 10 million people, including pensioners, students and those on low incomes, will pay less than the full charge, at a cost of some £2.5 billion to the Treasury. Some seven million people will benefit from the fact that, as the

advertisement puts it, "if your Community Charge is more than £156 higher than last year's rates bill, the Government will pay the difference up to the Charge it estimated for your local council based on their previous spending."

The advertisements, clearly a result of fears of fall-out in local government elections, emphasize that it is councils, not the Government, which fix the level of the community charge and point out that the community charge finances just over 25 per cent of local government expenditure.

Meeting the accusation that the charge does not reflect the ability to pay, the Conservatives point out that nearly half the cost of local services is met from taxpayers' money, adding: "The rich pay at least 10 times more towards the cost of local services than the poor."

The advertisements also remind voters that the Govern-



ment is capping the community charges proposed by the 21 "worst overspending" councils, although they are inaccurate in saying that all 21 are Labour-controlled. They say that there are only Labour and Liberal Democrat councils on a list of the 50 worst overspenders.

The Conservative theme in the local government election campaign is "Conservative councils cost you less". To that end, the advertisements say that "on average, Conservative councils are charging you £89 for every £100 that

Labour councils are charging". In London and the Metropolitan districts the comparative figure for Tory-controlled councils was £74.

Mr Hunt said: "How can any charge be described as flat rate for everybody when more than a quarter of the people pay less? Opinion polling showed that people approved of the principle of the tax, it was the level of taxation to which they objected."

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, agreed that the community charge was the central issue in the local government elections campaign. It was the benchmark by which good local government could be judged.

He declared that it was a myth that everybody had to pay the same for local services and that the less well off had to pay high charges.

He attacked the Labour Party for launching a gimmicky campaign of lies about

the poll tax, and accused it of being "cynical and dishonest" in refusing to spell out its alternative before the local elections, saying that Labour's campaigners knew the cost of their proposals but dared not reveal them.

Mr Baker insisted that Labour had made a "strategic error of a major sort" in attacking the Government's integrity.

Other things could be said about the Conservative Government, he said, without specifying what these things were, but it could not be accused of lacking integrity.

It was made clear at yesterday's press conference that the Government is not considering a reversion to a system of income-banding for poll-tax payers. Revisions to the system would be confined to obvious anomalies and to the amount of central funding given to local authorities in revenue support.

## Protesters occupy Glasgow offices

By Kerry Gill

ANTI-POLL tax demonstrators were last night preparing to occupy a sheriff officers' premises in Glasgow for the second night running in a protest over forthcoming action against people who have not paid their bills.

About 30 demonstrators have refused to budge since entering the building in the city centre on Wednesday. Yesterday they said they would remain until a promise was given that the sheriff officers would announce dates on which they were due to visit homes to assess goods liable to forfeiture against debts.

Mr Jack Harvie, of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, claimed they had been given similar information by other sheriff officers' firms in the area. "We want an assurance that they will not go to the homes of working people without first giving them notice," he said.

The protest took place as Strathclyde Regional Council disclosed that the number of people who have not paid their bills or are seriously in arrears stands at about 400,000. Around £100 million is still owed to the region.

The council believes that much of this will be recovered, but a planned debt write-off of about 5 per cent of the total poll-tax revenue looks as though it will be exceeded.

The occupation at the offices of George Walker and Company was continued in a relaxed atmosphere with the demonstrators occasionally breaking out in song and chanting slogans from the windows.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said they were keeping an eye on the incident, but no offence had been taken and they had not planned to take any action meantime.

Mr Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said they wanted at least four days' notification before officers went to a debtor's home. "It is only human to give people a bit of notice that you intend to come and visit them," he said.

## Video to help council staff deal with poll tax abuse

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

A TRAINING video to teach local authority workers how to cope with conflict in poll tax offices is being made because most councils fear their staff will encounter verbal or violent attacks from the public.

Petrol has already been poured over one council employee by a man holding a packet of matches, and at least two councils — one in Lothian and one in Kent — have arranged self-defence courses for staff.

The £850 video package is being produced by Crown Communications with the help of a psychological training consultant and will be available throughout England and Wales by the end of next month.

A huge majority of councils are worried that staff could be subjected

to abuse or violence from residents, according to a survey carried out by Crown.

Seventy local authorities, Conservative and Labour controlled, were questioned, and 75 per cent feared verbal abuse; 56 per cent physical violence; 45 per cent rude gestures or aggressive gesticulation; 15 per cent thought there would be disruption in waiting rooms and 5 per cent thought there was a possibility of big protests in poll tax offices.

Many poll tax payers, especially those eligible for reductions, will go to council offices each month to make payments and council leaders fear this is when there will be problems.

The 25-minute video tape, which will cost £50,000 to produce, will be combined with a printed training

manual which shows staff how to defuse every possible confrontation.

Video sequences will include a couple threatening to abandon their children in the poll tax office and a man unable to pay the charge chanting anti-Government slogans, sparking a mass protest.

In another scene, a pensioner blames the council clerk personally for the poll tax and attempts to attack him.

One sequence will have five young men from different backgrounds, none of whom paid rates, egging each other on before starting banging the glass panels in the poll tax office booths and causing disruption.

Julia Seward, producer of the video, said yesterday: "Our researchers came up with interesting,

if not rather frightening statistics and cases which have already taken place around the country. From what we have learnt, community charge officers will clearly face problems with some members of the public."

"I've deliberately cast unknown actors and actresses to ensure all the sequences are highly credible."

The video, called *Well Then... Who Is In Charge Here?*, will be offered to all councils. Several have already expressed an interest, according to Crown.

"If 10 per cent buy the package, it will be commercially viable," the company said last night.

● The biggest parliamentary seat in England should be split into two constituencies, the Boundary Commission said yesterday. It said the

Milton Keynes seat in Buckinghamshire should be divided into North East Milton Keynes and Milton Keynes South West.

The existing seat, formed in 1983, has an electorate of more than 107,000, compared with most constituencies, which have between 60,000 and 65,000 voters.

The seat is held by the Conservative Mr William Benyon, who had a 13,701 majority over the Alliance in a four-cornered contest at the last election.

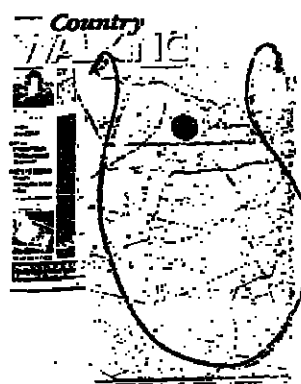
The commission's recommendation to Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary is for two constituencies with roughly equal numbers of voters. The Home Office said it was likely the recommendation would be accepted in time for the next general election.



## READING MAPS IS EASIER IF YOU HAVE THE GIFT.

Our May issue of Country Walking magazine comes complete with a complimentary map holder. You'll find it indispensable after reading our article on developing your map skills.

It's just one of the many features packed into our latest issue guaranteed to point you in the right direction. From Cornwall to Caithness, Country Walking offers page after page of great suggestions on where to walk and what to see. You'll have no finer companion than Britain's best selling walking magazine.



A FREE MAP HOLDER WITH OUR MAY ISSUE.  
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## Statue of Olivier unveiled

A statue of Lord Olivier, sword aloft in his role as Henry V, was unveiled in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday.

The bronze by John Blakeley, who designed an ornate silver oyster for the Queen's 25th jubilee, was commissioned two years before Lord Olivier's death last year.

## Police accused

Four former members of the disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad were remanded on bail until May 4 yesterday, accused of perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

## £8m arrears

More than 16,500 of the 90,000 council house tenants in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, owe £8,373,354 in rent arrears — £1 million more than the council's target figure. Nearly 9,000 tenants have already left their homes owing more than £2,500,000.

## Bunkered

A herd of cows caused more than £25,000 damage to a new golf course at Pencoed, near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

## Death charge

Mr Roy Lambert, aged 41, a hotelier of Uffculme, Devon, was accused yesterday of drink driving and causing death by reckless driving.

## Rottweiler theft

A Rottweiler, sentenced to death by Ilminster, Somerset, magistrates for killing another dog and mauling a girl, has been stolen from its locked compound.

## New Ombudsman pledges to speed up case investigations

THE new Parliamentary Ombudsman published his first annual report yesterday and pledged to speed up investigations.

Mr William Reid took office as Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration in January. The cases highlighted in the report for 1989 were investigated by his predecessor, Sir Anthony Barrowclough, QC.

The Barlow Clowes affair, which led to the Department of Trade and Industry agreeing to award more than £150 million to investors, was the largest and most complex of the 126 full investigations carried out by the Ombudsman last year, Mr Reid said.

Other cases concerned social security and unemployment benefit payments, prisoners' complaints, the Inland Revenue and immigration.

In his report, Mr Reid said

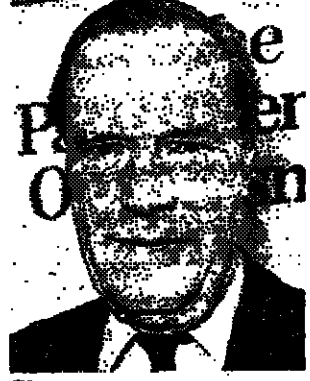
the time taken by his office to complete investigations had increased from an average of just over a year in 1988 to just over 15 months in 1989.

Some cases were completed within three to six months, but a third of all cases took more than 18 months, with

two stretching to more than three years. At the end of 1989, 183 cases were under investigation, and Mr Reid said that, while it would be unrealistic to expect to achieve the target time of an average nine months immediately, he hoped the backlog would be steadily reduced.

Of the complaints investigated, the Ombudsman found 48 per cent wholly, and 42 per cent partly, justified, and 10 per cent unjustified. He had received 677 complaints during the year, 24 fewer than in 1988. Complaints against the Department of Social Security accounted for a third of all referrals.

Remedies recommended by the Ombudsman ranged from a simple apology by the department or body concerned, to staffing improvements and financial redress.



Sir Anthony: Undertook 126 full investigations last year

## Sale of Sussex castle 'cost taxpayer £6m'

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A GOVERNMENT research council was criticized yesterday for its handling of the sale of Herstmonceux Castle which was to be sold by private treaty.

When the highest bidder was unable to provide the required banking references, the council considered the next largest offer which was £8.1 million.

A second underbidder said he was prepared to increase his bid to £14 million but the council considered that to accept this would have amounted to "gazumping" and that it could not be involved in such a practice.

Although the council defended itself by saying there were doubts about the ability of the bidder to complete the £14 million deal, the NAO report says the offer should have been fully investigated before the lower bid was accepted.

published yesterday. Eight firm offers were received by August 1988 for the property which was to be sold by private treaty.

The Science and Engineering Research Council is also rebuked for its failure to demand some form of "claw-back" from the potential development value of the castle and the surrounding 370 acres of gardens and grounds in East Sussex.

The castle was sold for £8.1 million without planning permission when the Royal Greenwich Observatory moved from the site to Cambridge. The council considered the price to be fair and any attempt to get a share of development value as unnecessary, according to a National Audit Office report

## Research shows owning a dog improves health

By Peter Davenport

PETS are good for their owners, according to research presented yesterday at the European Congress of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association in Harrogate.

Dr James Serpell of the Companion Animal Research Group at Cambridge University said a two-year study of people acquiring new pets had showed that those buying a dog registered a "dramatic decline" in a range of minor health problems, including headaches and common colds. Cat owners received similar benefits, although they were not as long lasting, he said.

Dr Serpell added: "We don't properly understand the mechanisms by which pets induce these effects. There are things going on in these relationships between people and their pets which we don't understand."

There is, however, nothing like a severe case of canine bad breath to rupture that special relationship between a man and his best friend, according to Mr Colin Harvey, a veterinary surgeon based in America who specializes in dental treatment for pets.

"A severe dose of halitosis does tend to take the edge off that companionship, especially if, when you go home at the end of the day your dog greets you, tail wagging and panting into your face and all you want to say is: 'Go see your dentist'."

As might be expected, that is exactly what more and more dog owners in America, where pets can be even more pampered than in this country, are doing, but it is a trend that is growing here too, Mr Harvey said.

There are estimated to be 7.3 million pet dogs in the United Kingdom and at least 6.8 million cats;

as many as 84 per cent of those over three years old have some degree of periodontal disease according to figures from the British Veterinary Dental Association. But help is at hand.

Root canals can be treated, cavities filled and owners are now advised to regularly brush the teeth of their pets.

There are even toothpastes coming on to the market to tempt Rover's palate: liver and malt-flavoured products are proving to be canine favourites. There are also special toothbrushes, cleaning pads and discs that attach to the finger so that a pet's gums can be massaged.

Gum disease was proving to be the overwhelming dental problem for pet dogs and cats, Mr Harvey said, and a main factor was the predominance of tinned food. It did not exercise and clean the teeth in the same way as food hunted in the wild.

As for progress in animal health,

hip replacements for dogs are now achieving an 80 to 90 per cent success rate and up to 200 operations, costing up to £1,000 a time, are believed to have been performed in the UK over the last five years.

Mr John Houlton of Cambridge University said yesterday: "We can now take a dog that is a cripple, no longer able to exercise normally and with a poor quality of life and convert it into a happy dog, able to exercise and go for walks and, if it is a working dog, to return to work able to walk, run and swim." And waiting lists were small.

Advances were also being made in salvaging limbs rather than amputating them, in cardiac surgery and even, on canine cardiac pacemakers. Acupuncture is being used on dogs spine, arthritis, respiratory problems and skin complaints.



Protest  
occupy  
Glasgow  
offices

# Thatcher blames firms in 'gun' dispute

THE companies involved in the production of the giant Iraqi gun were blamed by the Prime Minister yesterday for a question-time exchange for failing to apply for an export licence.

She said that if a company wished to export something that needed an export licence — and military equipment did — it was their duty to apply for it and to apply for one.

"No such application came for a gun or other military application. That is the fault of the companies that were seeking to export the product."

She was accused by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, of the "most obvious evasion" in her replies.

On Wednesday, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade

and Industry, told the Commons that the Government was entirely satisfied that the steel tubes bound for Iraq formed part of a gun.

The exchanges yesterday were begun by Mr Martin Flaherty (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) who asked Mrs Thatcher if she would explain why the party of defence and law and order, which never believed that a single Labour soldier fought in the last war, now could not even recognize a gun barrel (laughter).

Mrs Thatcher replied that everyone was grateful to all those who fought in the last war. There had never been a gun barrel made so far which had an aperture one metre wide.

Mr Kinnock: Will she tell the House why there has been no effective response from any part of the Government to the inquiries

## IRAQI TUBES

made since 1988 about the Iraqi gun contract by Sheffield Forgemasters, by Walter Somers and by Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove?

Mrs Thatcher: The point remains that at no time did either firm apply for an export licence for the gun or other military application and if they had done so, they would have been refused.

Mr Kinnock: That is no adequate answer (loud Labour cheers). As head of the Government, will the Prime Minister tell us whom she holds responsible for this shambles over the Iraqi gun contract. Which minister must bear the blame?

Mrs Thatcher: Any company that

is wanting to export something which requires an export licence has a duty to apply for that licence.

At no time, the Prime Minister added, did either firm apply for an export licence for a gun or other military application.

These enormous pipes, one metre wide, were totally otherwise described (than a gun barrel). At no time did they apply for an export licence for a gun or other military application. Had they done so it would have been refused. It was their duty to apply.

Mr Kinnock: That is the most devious evasion. The testimony of Sir Hal Miller has shattered the idea that the Government did not know over the past two years. I repeat, which minister is to blame?

Mrs Thatcher: Any company that

That was the fault of the companies seeking to export the product.

During business questions later, Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said that Parliament was surely entitled to some clarification from Mr Ridley.

The House should have urgent and candid answers from the department and the Ministry of Defence to the many unanswered questions after the exchanges on Wednesday.

Who would explain, for example, the widely differing versions of events given by Mr Ridley and Sir Hal Miller? The Leader of the House (Sir Geoffrey Howe) should provide time for a debate in government time so that MPs could get answers to make up for "the pathetically inadequate performance" by Mr Ridley on Wednesday.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that Mr

Ridley had described all that was known about the matter. The components had been apprehended because of alertness when the matter became known. It was in the nature of things that such exports took place against a background of subterfuge and concealment, not least on the part of the orderers, and those concerned with the supply were not always fully informed about what was happening.

Further investigations must continue. If it was thought right to say more later, Mr Ridley would consider doing so.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that Mr Ridley had developed a new doctrine that ministers could not answer questions because a case might be pending in the courts.

Mr Robert Crier (Bradford South, Lab) referred the Speaker later to a decision of 1963 about sub judice matters and said that the *Yorkshire Post* had reported that Customs and Excise were not considering prosecution.

Where a minister tried to abuse the sub judice resolution and escape accountability to the House over matters which were his responsibility, the Speaker should make clear whether there was a real and substantial danger of prejudice to a trial.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): There is no question of this matter being sub judice and it was not raised with me yesterday.

Dr Cunningham said that there was a danger of creating a narrow precedent. The matters went to the heart of the integrity of the Government in answering to the House.

# Hong Kong 50,000 'not elite group'

GOVERNMENT plans to provide British passports to 50,000 heads of household in Hong Kong represented an unprecedented departure from Britain's normal principles of nationality law, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, told MPs yesterday.

Moving the second reading of the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill in the Commons, he said that the Government of the colony was convinced that the assurance of citizenship as provided in the Bill was the only effective way of restoring confidence and maintaining prosperity. All the evidence emerging from Hong Kong supported that view.

The 50,000 would be a carefully chosen and highly qualified group of people, in good jobs, earning good salaries. If they decided to settle in the United Kingdom, they would doubtless have a valuable contribution to make here, he said.

Mr Waddington said: I hardly need remind the House that although since the Second World War Britain has granted independence to many former colonies, rarely have we had to make plans for handing over a territory to a foreign power, and never to a communist one.

I certainly have not to remind the House that the remarkable story of Hong Kong's economic success is one in which our country has been, and is, intimately involved.

Quite apart from what many, if not most, of us might regard as our duty to maintain the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong up to 1997 and to secure a smooth changeover in that year, Britain has an enormous stake, in terms of trade, investment and jobs, in Hong Kong's continuing success. This is a case, if ever there was one, where duty and the national interest march hand in hand.

It is with Britain that responsibility for Hong Kong rests over the next seven years. We have to do our best to see that so long as we remain responsible for the territory, its prosperity and stability are maintained. That is what the Bill is all about, and I would emphasize that our proposals, far from contravening the joint declaration signed in 1984, are designed to carry out the agreement's central purpose, which is to maintain Hong Kong's prosperity and stability in the run-up to 1997.

The Bill addresses a real and present threat to that objective.

There are plenty of people who still want to go and live in Hong Kong, largely I have to say people without skills wanting to reap the economic benefits of making their homes there. There are also many people leaving and they include professional, managerial and technical personnel in proportions far in excess of their numbers in the population.

Indeed, 24 per cent of all emigrants come within those categories but represent only 5.5 per cent of Hong Kong's population. This is a loss of Hong Kong's information science professionals, a classification which includes computer experts, have been leaving each year. Hong Kong's economy and stability cannot indefinitely survive such a hemorrhage of talent and enterprise.

The rationale for the proposals now before the House remains as set out by the Foreign Secretary in his statement on December 20 last year.

First, current rates of emigration pose a real threat to Hong Kong's stability in the period before 1997. Second, most of those who are emigrating do so reluctantly, because it is the only means of acquiring the assurance of a foreign passport. And third, most of them would remain if such an assurance were available without the need to leave Hong Kong.

I fully recognize that the



Members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council visiting the House of Commons for the Hong Kong passports debate yesterday. From left: Professor C.V. Poon, Mrs Selina Chow, Mrs Rosanna Tam and Mr Ronald Arculli

## Heath accepts Government's solution

Mr Edward Heath (Old Sidcup and Beley, C), the former Prime Minister, said: "I shall support the Government tonight (Conservative cheers). Although I have in the past expressed doubts about some aspects of it, I believe that it is the only course now open to the Government to take."

The situation in Hong Kong, after Tiananmen Square, could not now be dealt with by trying to extend democracy.

The fact was that in some quarters of Hong Kong there was a lack of confidence and the Government was under an obligation to do its utmost to ensure that Hong Kong retained its stability and prosperity until 1997.

He did not accept the idea that the United Kingdom had a moral responsibility for Hong Kong. The British had

made a considerable contribution to the development of Hong Kong and to the welfare of its people, but looking at the figures it was evident that the United States had made an even greater contribution in investment and so had the Japanese.

"Our responsibility is clearly a political and practical one, which is to see that Hong Kong, when handed over to the People's Republic of China, is as stable and prosperous as we can make it."

"That is the problem to which the Government has quite rightly addressed itself — how to secure that position." He urged the Government to do all it could to move closer to China to find ways of building up confidence in Hong Kong itself. That required action from Peking as well as from London. The Government

must not despair or be dogmatic after the killings in Tiananmen Square. This would mean moving further and further away from Peking while the need was to move closer.

It was said that if the 50,000 families eventually came and brought their families it would cause great disorganization, but he doubted that after his experience as Prime Minister in accepting many Ugandan Asians in a much shorter time span.

Given the opportunity, the Chinese had shown they would always be successful, in London or San Francisco.

The problem was how to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong until 1997. He believed the Government was right to try to see that those who were essential to services and management stayed.

collapse of confidence in Hong Kong. But I have to say that, in that event, many more people from Hong Kong would arrive here seeking refuge.

Of course in that situation we would look to the international community for assistance but, given our historical links with Hong Kong, who can doubt that in a situation of real difficulty the United Kingdom would be expected to take the leading role?

The Government believes that the Bill will greatly reduce the chance of such a collapse before 1997 and will thus increase the prospects of a successful transition when the time comes.

It would not have been reasonable to ask the House to approve an enabling Bill such as this without revealing how the Government envisaged that the resulting powers would be used.

I therefore turn now to the explanatory note which I have laid before the House describing the selection scheme which the Government has in mind and which is the product of extensive discussions with the Hong Kong Government and based on the principles originally proposed by them.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Chingford, C) intervened to ask why passports could not be issued, if the Bill were enacted, in the normal way but marked "valid January 1 1997".

"If he is right and this is an encouragement to people to stay in Hong Kong, they will not wish to use these passports before 1997, will they?"

Mr Waddington: The issue of passports in such an unprece-

dentented form would be an invitation to people to think that the obligation would not be honoured if by some terrible catastrophe, someone like the member for Manchester Gorton (Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow Foreign Secretary) was responsible for these matters.

The scheme would be divided into four separate sections. Seventy-two per cent, or 36,000, of the 50,000 places would be allocated under a general selection, open to people from a wide range of walks of life who had a key role in maintaining Hong Kong's prosperity and successful administration.

They would come from seven broad areas of work: business and management, accounting, engineering, information services, medicine and science, law and education.

The distribution of places to the varied occupational groups within these broad areas would take account of the rate at which their members were emigrating to focus the assurances where the need was greatest.

A number of places would be set aside for other technically or professionally qualified people, who did not fit neatly into the listed occupational groups but who performed essential functions.

Applicants to the general allocation section would be marked on a points system, taking account of age, experience, qualifications, special circumstances, proficiency in English, British links and community service.

Age was important because the scheme was intended to reflect Hong Kong's future need

for personnel and emigration was particularly high in the 30-40 age range.

Points for special circumstances would be a means of, for example, recognizing exceptional individual achievement or of giving extra weight to occupations suffering higher emigration rates than others within the same group.

British links would include service with a British firm and the Bill did not, therefore, contain provisions for a second-ment scheme as originally envisaged.

How best to give assistance to British companies would no doubt feature in their detailed discussions on the Bill.

"A points system is not familiar to us in Britain, but it is well understood in Hong Kong as a result of its use by the Australian and Canadian immigration authorities. The considerable work has gone into devising one which would be as fair and objective as possible, with the Governor's Advisory Committee playing an important and impartial role."

The Independent Commission Against Corruption, which would be represented on the advisory committee, had already been involved in designing the way that the points system would operate, and would monitor the practical application of this, as of other aspects of the scheme.

The second section of the scheme was for key entrepreneurs. Hong Kong had a number of well known and respected entrepreneurs who had extensive investments there, who employed substantial

as one which will contribute to the stability and prosperity of the territory and therefore benefit the community as a whole."

Two other groups of people ought to be mentioned who were not covered by the Bill but for whom he believed some provision should be made.

"I am referring to the widows and widowers of British citizens who were resident in Hong Kong and I am prepared to offer an assurance that they will be allowed to come here if they are still resident in Hong Kong and have not the citizenship of another country and have not remarried."

They would, of course, be able to come here anyhow under the immigration rules during the lifetime of their spouses.

In accordance with the recommendation of the foreign affairs select committee, the same assurance would also extend to the widows of former Servicemen who served in defence of Hong Kong during the Second World War under the Government of Hong Kong. They would be able to come irrespective of the husband's nationality.

"In conclusion, I should refer to suggestions that the Bill either betrays the Government's lack of confidence in the joint declaration or will reinforce uncertainty about the future among those not selected."

"I do not believe that either allegation stands up to scrutiny. It is a fact of life that, following the events in China last June, confidence in Hong Kong declined to a low ebb. The Bill is designed to tackle that problem. Far from undermining confidence, it will bolster it."

The Chinese had not said anything to suggest that they would fail to honour their side of the joint declaration.

Under the terms of the declaration, it would be incumbent upon the Chinese Government to explain to the Chinese people why Hong Kong residents with British citizenship to continue to live and work in Hong Kong and to have free movement in and out of the territory.

The Foreign Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd) had taken pains to explain to the Chinese the Government's reasons for introducing these proposals.

"We believe that they will in time come to accept them as a sincere contribution to Hong Kong's successful transition to Chinese sovereignty."

"It is also profoundly to Britain's advantage to secure such a transition. That is why this Bill serves the joint interests of the British people and of the Queen's subjects in Hong Kong. I commend it to the House."

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that it was less than a year since the Tiananmen Square slaughter, so it was easy enough to understand the apprehension with which the Hong Kong people anticipated the colony's being handed over to China in seven years.

This apprehension was felt by all the people there, more than five million residents.

There could not be a solution to the colony's problems and the confidence of the residents which did not address the needs of all the people, not just a few of them.

There could be no just or even practical solution in a scheme which offered a special escape route to a favoured and arbitrarily chosen minority. Selection emphasized the extent of the problem, but offered nothing for most of the Hong Kong people.

"The real solution, the only solution which meets the needs of all the people, is to make major progress towards democracy in the colony — democracy so complete and so tightly organized that dismantling it in 1997 would be virtually impossible."

"That is the policy which the Labour Party advocates and that is the policy which the Labour Party will pursue in government."

## Czechs end Semtex exports

Britain has been told that all exports of the Semtex explosive by Czechoslovakia ended last year. Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Since 1982 exports had been limited to "special deliveries" to East Germany and Hungary under Warsaw Pact commitments. Those had been covered by a guarantee that they will not be re-exported to third countries.

The Government was having discussions with the Czechoslovak authorities about past exports of Semtex and had noted President Havel's statement that about 1,000 tonnes had been exported to Libya.

## Private Bills report soon

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, hopes to report to the House before long on procedure for dealing with private Bills, he said during exchanges about next week's business.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) had said that 14 Bills had been deferred to next Thursday, and six months after Sir Geoffrey had said that he would look at the situation.

## Courts Bill proceeds

The Courts and Legal Services Bill was given a second reading in the Commons late on Wednesday night after an opposition amendment declining to give the Bill a second reading because of the omission of provision for extra resources for courts and for more legal aid, was rejected by 203 votes to 101 — government majority, 102.

## Better guides for learners

Car drivers supervising learners will have to be over the age of 21 and have held a full driving licence for at least three years, Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in a Commons written reply.

He hopes to implement the changes by the summer.

## £120,000 for Tory meeting

The additional cost of policing the Conservative Party conference in Cheltenham last month was estimated to be £120,000 over three days. Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday and Tuesday: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, committee. Wednesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the poll tax, business rates and local government services. Thursday: Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' Bills: Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Bill, remaining stages.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Landlord and Tenant (Licensed Premises) Bill and Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill, committee stages. Tuesday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, second day. Wednesday: Debates on the governing bodies of places of education on the powers and constitution of a second chamber.

Thursday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, committee, third day. Friday: Private members' Bills: Licensing (Low Alcohol Drinks) Bill, report. Coimising Subsidies (Damage, Arbitration, Prevention and Public Awareness) Bill, second reading. Lords (11): Social Security Bill, second reading. Debate on the Arts Council.

## Amendment votes bring protests

IT WAS not reasonable that the Commons should have to spend four hours throughout next Tuesday night voting on 14 amendment votes on important, controversial and sensitive matters concerning the abortion time limit. Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said during business questions.

"The amendments, on time limits of between 18 and 28 weeks, are listed for the committee stage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, a Lords measure."

Dr Cunningham asked why the House was being put in this situation.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of

## EMBRYO BILL

the House, said that there had been extensive consultation on the handling of the matter, between business managers and others. He did not expect this to command universal assent, but he had arrived at the best practical arrangements.

It was important to try to tackle the central question in an orderly fashion. Consideration had been given to separating these matters, but this had given rise to anxiety. This might involve much time on voting, but they should be able to reduce the contested votes.

## £3bn promised for NHS

By Richard Ford Political Correspondent

A PROMISE was made by the Labour Party yesterday to spend £3 billion over the lifetime of a parliament to restore National Health Service underfunding and meet the rising demands of an ageing population.

Mr Robin Cook, shadow Secretary of State for Health, also promised that a future Labour administration would start to reduce the backlog of maintenance and repair work in the National Health Service which the party estimated totalled £1.8 billion.

He accused the Government of failing to increase the health service budget in line with the true level of inflation, resulting in cuts in spending, fewer beds for the sick and hospital clo-

## HEALTH BUDGET

sures. Mr Cook said that one in three health authorities ended last year in deficit and that a clear majority of them expected to be even worse off in this financial year.

The Government had based its health budget this year on an inflation figure of 5 per cent, but the Treasury admitted that the figure for the whole year would be at least 6.5 per cent. Mr Cook told a Labour Party press conference on the health issues that the party would highlight during the local government election campaign.

"If we take at face value the Treasury's own revised forecast of inflation," he said, "health authorities are worse off than

Kenneth Clarke promised by £200 million."

He added: "Yet again he is asking health authorities to plan for real cuts in spending, not real increases in patient services."

Labour launched a pamphlet, entitled *The Last Decade*, which Mr Cook said was a damning report on the Government's record on national health and social services during the past decade.

Detailing the state of the national health and community services, it says that there are now 71,147 fewer hospital beds in Britain than in 1979, a total of 468 hospitals have closed and 236 partly closed and, last September, 929,000 people were on hospital waiting lists compared with 628,361 in September 1978.

## More MPs now for House TV

By Robin Oakley Political Editor

A THIRD of the MPs who voted against the experimental television coverage of Parliament have now changed their minds and believe that coverage should continue, according to a survey carried out for Central Television.

In February 1988 the Commons voted in favour of the experiment by 318 votes to 264. Expectations are that any vote now would see a far larger majority in favour of continuing TV coverage.

In a survey for Central TV's regional political programme, *Central Lobby*, 70 per cent said

## SURVEY

that the coverage should continue, with only 27 per cent against the idea. That was despite the fact that 35 per cent believed that the presence of the cameras had damaged the working of the Commons.

More than three-quarters of the MPs polled (78 per cent) believed that the televising of the Commons had increased the public's understanding and awareness of Parliament.

Of the 116 MPs contacted, 87 responded. Of those who did, 54 per cent had voted in favour of the experiment.



# Bush counsels caution over Baltic boycott

From Peter Stothard  
US Editor, Washington

PRESIDENT Bush has begun consulting allied leaders about "appropriate responses" to the Soviet Union's moves against Lithuania.

He spoke to President Mitterrand yesterday and to Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, on Wednesday, but Mr. Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, played down the prospect of joint Nato or Western action.

The Administration was still checking reports that oil supplies from the Soviet Union to Lithuania had been cut. "We want to see if it is real, and what the extent of the situation is," Mr. Fitzwater said. His remarks were symptomatic of the US approach throughout the past weeks of

what Washington would rather not see as "the Lithuanian crisis".

Mr. James Baker, the Secretary of State, has started a careful programme of preparing US public opinion for a policy of preferring Soviet reform to Baltic aspiration.

The US hopes that such a choice can be avoided. But Mr. Baker's presentation to Congress on Wednesday was noticeably short on sanctions (referring only to "certain commercial arrangements") and long on analysis of American interest in President Gorbachev's survival.

Behind the measured responses to the threat of a blockade, there are also signs that the US Administration is losing patience with the break-away Government of President Vytautas Landsbergis. Inquiries about White House

options for responding to the Soviet moves were met by muted answers about ways of changing Lithuanian tactics.

Mr. Bush is under growing pressure from grassroots Republican organizations to threaten Mr. Gorbachev with trade sanctions, a slowing down of arms control and postponement of the summit.

The White House crisis management team, the so-called Deputies Committee, has a range of tactical options which can be brought on to the table. These include postponement of negotiations on civil aviation, trade, investment and maritime transport policies.

The most threatening would be any slowdown in the move towards giving the Soviet Union "most favoured nation status" — a gift described by one well-placed observer as "handing over the

keys of Fort Knox" to the near-bankrupt Soviet state. It seems, however, that the Administration may be much more keen to suggest its compilation of long option lists than to use them. Some graduated response will be necessary for the sake of US public opinion.

But intelligence estimates of Soviet anarchy, of the closeness to national break-up, and even civil war have convinced White House advisers that Mr. Gorbachev must be protected in the cause of international security.

If Mr. Landsbergis has to be abandoned, the US would rather take a bit of political heat now than risk the undisciplined division of a nuclear-armed superpower. Congressional leaders on the House ways and means committee reacted favourably to

Mr. Baker's presentation. By the mid-term elections in November, it is felt that a successful summit, followed by further progress on cutting strategic nuclear weapons, would more than outweigh any setbacks to Baltic independence.

The White House is becoming increasingly impatient with Lithuanian tactics which appear to rest primarily on embarrassing other countries into accepting its accelerated timetable for freedom. Diplomatic consultations with allies have been marked so far by criticism of Lithuanian impatience. There has been little enthusiasm at galvanizing international support for "gallant little Vilnius".

It is being quietly pointed out that Mr. Landsbergis — whether deliberately or because of the chaos in his

young administration — has done little to help himself fight a blockade. The US knows of no real rationing systems or administrative preparations of any serious kind.

Mr. Landsbergis has, it is felt, relied excessively on rhetorical appeals, bluff and a blinkered sense of his righteousness. A comparison to Mr. Menachem Begin, the former Prime Minister of Israel, has begun to be made in some minds. In Mr. Baker's mind such a form of idealism is not a virtue.

The State Department is unimpressed by the Landsbergis government in almost every way. The Deputies Committee was founded after the much-criticized failure to back an ill-prepared coup in Panama last year. The Bush Administration still thinks the decision not to intervene with-

out proper risk-analysis and control was right. Lithuania does not look a good risk. Washington is also concerned that moves in favour of Lithuania may set precedents for action in other nationalist struggles within the Soviet Union.

It seems that the US may be attempting to get its views across through prominent Lithuanian Americans, but without much success. Mr. Gorbachev has let it be known how much more easy he finds it to deal with the better organized and less dramatic tactics of the Estonians — and the Americans are inclined to share that view.

The Lithuanians are known to be allowing publication of dissident literature for the Ukraine — and this has raised particular fears. Mr. Landsbergis may be prepared to risk

putting new fingers on the Soviet nuclear buttons in order to get his country's freedom but, in official eyes, no one else ought to be expected to do so.

By this standard, the restraint in international support for Vilnius is seen as a virtue. It is pointed out that, of the many countries which have never recognized the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, none has recognized the new government there.

Japanese desire to be close to Mr. Gorbachev. West German concentration on not risking its own unity. British wishes to be close to Mr. Bush: all are treated as positive factors here. So, too, is the Norwegians' apparent reluctance to provide Lithuania with cheap oil.

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## Moscow showing signs of wavering despite embargo

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

AS MOSCOW acted on its threat to impose economic sanctions on Lithuania yesterday, opinion in the Soviet capital was divided over whether the confusion that has seemed to prevail in Kremlin policy towards the rebel Baltic republic was merely apparent — or real.

Keeping the Lithuanian leadership guessing seems to have been part of the Soviet approach from a very early stage. The pledge — from the right of the Soviet political spectrum as well as from President Gorbachev — not to use armed force "unless lives were threatened" was followed by two occasions on which military convoys drove at speed through the centre of Vilnius at dead of night.

An ultimatum on the return of Lithuanian deserters to

their units elsewhere in the Soviet Union was followed by the forcible recapture of only a small number. The rest, up to 2,000, are still at large.

The threat of economic sanctions was confusingly worded and was not acted on the moment the deadline expired. There seemed to be an element of the Muscovite cat-teasing the Lithuanian mouse as a prelude to putting it out of its misery if it would not surrender voluntarily.

It can be argued that Moscow has not been as inconsistent as all that. Threats to strengthen border security and restrict the issue of visas were acted on. No Moscow-based correspondents and precious few others are allowed into the republic except in carefully monitored groups.

The threat of economic

sanctions was carried out after the Lithuanian reply had been received two working days (as opposed to the two Easter weekend days) after the 48-hour deadline expired.

President Gorbachev has also stood by his pledge not to "negotiate". The only talks reported to have taken place were with Mr. Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Politburo and the Presidential Council, as Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was trying to fix a summit date with Mr. James Baker, his US counterpart, in Washington. The moment a summit date had been fixed, a planned meeting between the Lithuanian delegation and Mr. Vadim Bakatin, the Interior Minister, was cancelled.

There are, however, tell-tale signs of Soviet indecision. Authoritative statements from the top have been few and far between since the Congress of People's Deputies issued its formal condemnation, subsequently diluted by President Gorbachev, soon after Lithuania's original declaration of independence. Since Mr. Gorbachev's first decree, calling for increased border security and a ban on the possession of firearms, there had been few formal statements until last week-end's economic ultimatum.

The only measure of official opinion came in the form of replies by Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Shevardnadze and other officials, to questions during meetings with foreign visitors or at other forums.

These have boiled down to accusing the Lithuanians of irresponsibility or "adventurism", and expressing the hope that a political settlement can be reached.

After the economic ultimatum was issued, not only did Moscow's response tardy, it also contradicted undertakings given by the Soviet leader to Mr. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, among others about the use of economic pressure.

Some have argued that the half-use of military force in Lithuania reflects the weight of pressure on Mr. Gorbachev from the conservative wing of the leadership. In other words, it is not the President, but his opponents who are to blame. Others claim that the more the West draws attention to Soviet threats, the greater the pressure on the Kremlin to be seen to act — in other words, the West is to blame for oppressive action.

● Radical resigns: A prominent Moscow radical has resigned from the Communist Party, paving the way for defections that could destroy the political force that forged the Soviet state over 70 years.

Professor Yuri Afanasyev, an historian and the leader of the party's powerful reformist Democratic Platform, said yesterday he had left the party, saying it was beyond redemption. Others were expected to follow before July's crucial congress. (Reuters)



HANDS across the Baltic: Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister, left, welcoming Mrs. Kazimiera Prunskiene, her Lithuanian opposite number, at the start of their talks in Oslo yesterday.

Reacting to Soviet embargoes of gas and oil supplies, the Lithuanian Prime Minister told a packed press conference that the object of her visit to Norway was not material aid but "general understanding and moral support". (A Correspondent writes from Oslo.) The Norwegian Government promptly demonstrated both by summoning the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Aleksandr Teterin, and delivering a formal protest at the Soviet actions.

Vowing to continue the struggle for independence with all the resources at

Lithuania's command, Mrs. Prunskiene described those resources as "our people's determination to work" and a "European mentality" which the Soviet Union had "not quite destroyed".

The obsession of the Western media with the possible purchase of oil from Norway has clearly taken Mrs. Prunskiene and her Foreign Minister, Mr. Algirdas Saudargas, who arrived here on Wednesday night, by surprise. Both have reiterated that they knew several days in advance that oil and gas would be cut off, and both felt that the measures were something of a warning gesture rather than a long-term strategy of attrition.

But the loss of gas supplies was the more serious, Mrs. Prunskiene said, because the Lithuanians had no gas

reserves, although there was enough oil to last about six weeks.

Talks with the Soviet authorities on energy supplies are expected to begin next week, and some face-saving formula enabling Lithuania to "buy" energy supplies from the Soviet Union is thought likely.

Her visit had been planned early this month, well before the current crisis, as one in a series of private hospitality-and-ideology programmes for East Europeans throughout Scandinavia.

Nordic politicians are convinced that their system of social democracy offers an ideal halfway house between communism and unbridled free-market capitalism; for their part, the emerging nations to the East see the Nordic countries as natural allies.

## US 'abandons' follow-up to Lance nuclear missile

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE Bush Administration has decided to abandon its plans for a new West German-based, short-range nuclear missile to replace the ageing Lance, according to reports here yesterday.

Although the White House insists no formal decision has been made, the Pentagon has quietly told the US Army Missile Command to cease development of the Follow-on To Lance (FOTL) missile.

The Administration is now talking to Nato allies about cancelling FOTL as part of a broad review of the future of nuclear weapons in Europe, and about bringing forward East-West talks on cutting short-range nuclear weapons.

President Bush discussed the issue in Bermuda last Friday with Mrs. Thatcher, who has now dropped her previous insistence on the modernization of Lance.

Britain and the United States are said to agree that a

continuing American nuclear presence in Germany is essential, and that Lance should be abandoned only as part of a larger plan that would involve the deployment of new tactical air-to-surface missiles there.

They hope these missiles would be acceptable to Bonn as they would be capable of reaching beyond Eastern Europe and would also be based in other European countries.

The issue of whether to deploy a modernized Lance in West Germany nearly split Nato last May.

Since then events in Eastern Europe have undermined the case for deployment of a missile which would be targeted on East Germany, Hungary and Poland. West Germany has told Washington it would not accept FOTL, and Congressional leaders have said they will not approve the Pentagon's request for \$112 million (£68

million) next year for the missile's development.

Congressional Democrats have unveiled budget proposals for 1991 which would cut \$8 billion off the \$305 billion the Administration has requested for defence. Mr. Leon Panetta, the House budget committee chairman, said it would begin transition from a "Cold War economy to a peacetime economy".

● ROME: Although the prospect of war may be at its lowest in 50 years, only Nato can balance and hedge the preponderance of Soviet power in Europe, Herr Manfred Wörner, the alliance's secretary-general, told the Italian Senate yesterday. (Paul Bonaparte writes.)

He disagreed with Soviet claims that Nato and the Warsaw Pact were parallel organizations which could work towards shaping Europe. "There is no equivalence," he said.

## Nationalists in Croatia foresee heavy victory

From Dossa Trevisan, Zagreb

MR. FRANJO Tudjman, the leader of the Croatian Democratic Union, the strongly nationalist right-wing party, forecasts a crushing defeat for the ruling communists when some 3.5 million Croats go to the polls on Sunday in the country's first free elections in more than half a century.

For many people a free election is a wholly novel experience, and many are inclined to think more in terms of powerful personalities than of political programmes, more of what they are against than for.

Mr. Tudjman seems to be providing the powerful personality for which generations of disenfranchised Croats yearn. There was no question about the defeat of the communists, he said in an interview with *Borba*, the Belgrade newspaper, adding: "My party will win because it has the trust of the Croat people."

Opinion polls conducted by the weekly *Danas* in Zagreb, Split and Rijeka, the three largest Croatian cities, give the Union 50 per cent of the vote, with the more moderate National Accord nationalist coalition second on 25 per cent. The communists have less than 20 per cent.

Outside urban centres, however, the authoritarian Mr. Tudjman and his party command an even greater following, attracting huge crowds.

The communists call the Union "the party of dangerous intentions", but this has served only to enhance his popularity even more.

Dismissing the forecasts of the opinion polls, Mr. Tudjman confidently forecasts a landslide victory of 60 per cent in the first round. There will be a run-off election after two weeks if neither party polls more than 50 per cent.

Although Mr. Tudjman's confidence is regarded as merely an electioneering posture, the possibility of his victory in the first round can nevertheless not be dismissed.

The reason is simple: in Croatia, just as in Slovenia, the secessionist mood seems to be growing ever stronger. "The Croats want to free themselves from the Serbian domination under which they have lived in both Yugoslavia — the one after 1918 under Serbian monarchy and the second after 1945 under communist dictatorship," a Croatian writer campaigning for the more moderate coalition says.

The popularity which the Croatian Democratic Union has been gaining reflects this popular mood under Mr. Tudjman, a former general in Tito's army, a latter-day war historian, later still a dissident who spent several years in a Tito prison.

He can bring out crowds of hundreds of thousands of ecstatic Croats just as easily as Mr. Stobodan Milosevic, his Serbian counterpart, can arouse his fellow Serbs. "We're not for the Milosevic phenomenon, the Tudjman phenomenon would not be possible," a Western diplomat commented.

Reformed Croatian communists who do not have a leader who, like Mr. Milan Kucan in Slovenia, stood up against the Serbian leader and his pressing centralism, seem to have resigned themselves to defeat. They have been sitting on the fence for too long and have only recently confronted the Serbian communists and their leader over future reforms, slamming the door to the party congress and turning to a new image away from Bolshevism and closer to West European left-wing tradition.

## Albania offers to bury hatchet with superpowers

From Richard Bassett  
Tirana

ALBANIA buried the hatchet of old enmity yesterday and called on both America and the Soviet Union to re-establish diplomatic links severed for more than three decades.

Speaking at the conclusion of the tenth plenum of the communist party's Central Committee, the Albanian leader, Mr. Ramiz Alia, said the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States and the Soviet Union was "on the agenda".

"We want to stress that Albania has never had a phobia towards these countries. If now the US and the Soviet Union change their stand towards Albania, we have no reason not to welcome this," he added.

Relations with America were broken off after the Second World

War following suspicions that Washington was trying to subvert the Enver Hoxha regime.

Relations with Moscow were severed following an ideological break in 1960.

But referring to the absence of diplomatic relations with Britain, Mr. Alia again reiterated Albania's long-held view that London was guilty of "an outdated mentality" in freezing Albanian gold looted by the Nazis.

The British Government took this decision as a result of Albania's failure to abide by the judgement of the International Court at The Hague blaming Albania for the heavy loss of life suffered on two British destroyers which struck mines in 1946 in the Corfu Channel.

"It is high time for Britain to give up this position," Mr. Alia said,

adding that Albania did not wish to remain hostile to Britain.

Apart from international relations, Mr. Alia's speech unveiled potentially far-reaching reforms of the legal and economic systems of the last bastion of Stalinism in Europe.

A reform of the penal code will be approved on May 7. Private property for agricultural labourers is to be permitted in an attempt to decentralize collective farming throughout the country.

"These are only the beginnings of a major economic, social reform, aiming at democracy," an official of the Albanian Foreign Ministry said here yesterday.

But Mr. Alia, who enjoys the confidence of many young Albanians, hinted in his speech that reforms were being blocked by

reactionary elements within the apparatus.

"We are meeting with resistance along the road of reform from elements who do not understand this development," he said.

These elements were just as great a danger as the enemies of socialism, Mr. Alia insisted.

"Procedural acts are hindering the implementation of the people's will and the old cadres are trying to discredit change."

Mr. Alia is seen by many as a great hope for Albania. However, intellectuals both within and outside the Government note the prevailing force of an older generation whose ideas remain inflexible and who find it increasingly difficult to comprehend the necessary changes which will bring Albania into the 21st century.



Mr. Alia: Accused Britain of an outdated mentality

مكتبة الأصيل



# US and UK harden line on German neutrality

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE United States and Britain have agreed to take a far tougher line than expected with the Soviet Union over the question of whether a reunified Germany should belong to Nato.

President Bush and Mrs Thatcher have instructed their ministers to refuse to discuss the question with Moscow in the "two plus four" talks on reunification.

Their decision is likely to anger Moscow, which was expecting to use the talks as a main forum for resolving what, for the Soviet Union, is the biggest issue. It means, in effect, that Washington and London think they have clinched the Nato membership issue and no longer have to treat it as being in doubt.

If there is a Russian protest, it will almost certainly come next week when senior officials from the six nations meet in East Berlin. Alternatively, Moscow could use the first ministerial meeting, likely to be held on May 5, to make its annoyance plain.

The talks bring together the two Germanies and the four Second World War allies—the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and France. The forum was supposed to settle all the anxieties which reunification will arouse for Germany's neighbours.

It was created on an American and West German initiative to handle the external aspects of reunification, leaving the internal questions to the two Germanies.

It has reached only the "talks about talks" stage so far, and next week's meeting will continue discussions on the scope of the issues to be

decided. The British Government will not argue that Nato membership is an internal German matter, nor is it likely that Washington would take that view. Their aim in the talks is to avoid giving Moscow an opportunity to veto something they regard as a *fait accompli*.

"As the East Germans have elected a Government which wants rapid reunification, it is difficult to see what the Russians can do about the Nato question," one Western source said yesterday.

The joint position was settled between President Bush and Mrs Thatcher at their Bermuda summit a week ago but was not disclosed at the time. It has also been discussed at a meeting of the political directors of the US, Britain, France and West Germany.

The British position differs slightly from that of the US. While Washington wants no discussion of the issue in the talks, the British would be prepared to listen to Soviet concerns but not to allow any decision to be taken.

Both countries have been discussing the matter with the Russians in bilateral talks, trying to convince Moscow that German membership of Nato after reunification is inevitable and would be better from the Soviet point of view than German neutrality. However, Moscow shows no sign of accepting that argument.

The US and Britain are willing to discuss transitional arrangements, including a time scale allowing Soviet forces to remain in East Germany for a few years.



Mr Lech Walesa opening the second Solidarity congress in Gdansk yesterday

# Mazowiecki smooths the way for Walesa

From Roger Boyes, Gdansk

MR TADEUSZ Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, yesterday papered over his differences with Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, promising to accelerate political reforms and hold early general elections.

To cheers and table-thumping from the 487 delegates to the Solidarity congress, Mr Mazowiecki declared: "Solidarity's name will always be associated with Lech Walesa and I am paying tribute to him here and now."

Mr Walesa is expected to stand for, and win, the chairmanship of the union in leadership elections tomorrow. Three possible opponents have emerged from Silesia, all former underground activists: Mr Tadeusz Jedyński, one of the chief organizers of the resistance to martial law; Mr Mariusz Krzalewski, a lecturer from Katowice; and Mr Alojzy Pietrzyk, a veteran strike organizer from the coal mines.

But these are not regarded as serious contenders, partly because of the personal standing of Mr Walesa, but also because of a feeling among delegates that Solidarity should be led from Gdansk, where the union was born in the strikes of 1980.

The second Solidarity congress is a much tamer meeting than the first stormy gathering

in 1981. The delegates, arriving in suits and ties, are firmly committed to winding up on Tuesday because the ice rink in the Oliva Sports Hall has to be frozen over for a skating competition. No such niceties were considered nine years ago when delegates were pushing hard against the Communist system. The pressure is for unity, above all to show that Solidarity as a movement is not trying to undermine the Solidarity-led Government.

Mr Walesa has been calling for much faster changes and thus implicitly attacking the Prime Minister. Yesterday, Mr Mazowiecki was at pains to show that he too wanted to put the revolution on the fast track—but change, even rapid change, had to be orderly.

"State structures have to be methodically transferred," he said, emphasizing "methodically". He added that this policy was "already yielding results in the Prosecutor's Office, the Interior and Defence ministries".

Mr Walesa does not share this optimistic assessment, but he exchanged only pleasantries with Mr Mazowiecki yesterday. This was because the two men have worked out a kind of timetable for reform.

The Prime Minister promised yesterday that there would be entirely free parliamentary elections next

spring, and that the draft of a new constitution would be ready by May 3 next year. That, in turn, would allow for President Jaruzelski to be replaced by Mr Walesa or another candidate, perhaps Mr Mazowiecki himself.

The big question is whether Mr Walesa can wait so long. In the corridors of the sports hall, around the locker rooms and converted shower facilities, the gossiping delegates appeared to be divided between the patient and the impatient.

Mr Mazowiecki had presented the patient man's scenario. "Privatization can only be implemented by a confident people," he said. "Political pluralism comes only by erecting lasting institutions, not by turning the hourglass upside down."

But on the streets of Gdansk, the social tensions were plain to see. Tram and bus drivers paralysed the port to try to raise their salaries by 30p an hour; most Solidarity delegates had to hitchhike to the congress. From the roof of the hall fluttered leaflets calling for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops—a move strongly opposed by Mr Mazowiecki.

● LONDON: Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is to visit Poland for talks on April 29-May 2, the Foreign Office said yesterday.

# Bundesbank in rate warning

From Girard Steichen, Bonn, and Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

THE Bundesbank, West Germany's powerful central bank, sent a stern message yesterday to Bonn and East Berlin that interest rates may rise if its terms for monetary union are ignored.

Herr Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank vice-president, told the West German business magazine *Wirtschaftswochen* that a one-to-one exchange rate for Ostmarks could have grave consequences for growth.

It was the Bundesbank's strongest statement yet against opponents of its proposal for a two-to-one rate for all but small amounts of East German savings. Herr Schlesinger warned that a one-to-one rate would lead to "an enormous extension of currency volume" that could destabilize the Deutschmark. "The Bundesbank would then be forced to step sharply on the monetary brakes."

He said that exchanging at par beyond a ceiling of 2,000 Ostmarks in savings would increase inflationary pressure.

The Bundesbank's exchange proposals are unanimously opposed by all political parties in East Germany and have stirred heated debate in West Germany.

Its recommendations have also sent East Germans back to the streets in protest. Many East Germans feel betrayed by the proposal after receiving assurances, albeit vague, from Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, that their savings and earnings would be exchanged at parity. Herr Kohl's campaign pledges are viewed as heavily influencing the East German elections in March in favor of Herr Lothar de Maizière's Christian Democrats.

However, Herr de Maizière, the Prime Minister, told the East German Volkskammer that monetary union should take place at the one-to-one rate. "We must agree on terms that will not make East Germans second class citizens," he said.

Herr Walter Romburg, East Germany's new Finance Minister, said: "The East German Government is strong enough to hold out for a one-to-one rate and to do whatever it takes to get it."

Herr de Maizière issued his most powerful statement yet of East German sovereignty in unification negotiations.

He announced further concrete steps towards unity, saying that the Berlin Wall as "a stigma unworthy of mankind" would be pulled down in the next few months, and the two Germanies should send one team to the next Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992.

The conservative-led coalition government would pursue unity as fast quickly as possible, he said, but the conditions for the merging of the two states must combine pace and quality to reassure both Germany's neighbouring countries and the Soviet Union. He also issued a plea to the people of West Germany to share their wealth with the East.

He did not, however, mention the letter presented to him on Wednesday by the Soviet Ambassador in East Berlin, outlining Moscow's objections to the pace of the reunification process and the intended constitutional route via Article 23 of the West German Basic Law.

The sudden attention to national identity and East German values is calculated to strengthen support for the ruling Christian Democrats in the run-up to the country's local elections next month.

# UN seeks a role in Kashmir

THE United Nations is seeking talks with India and Pakistan next week to see if it can help to resolve their dispute over Kashmir (Our Foreign Staff writes). The move came as it was revealed that more than 1,200 people have been arrested in an Indian crackdown on Muslim separatists in Kashmir.

Yesterday the separatists were blamed for the murder of Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, a former Muslim state minister, at his home in Srinagar.

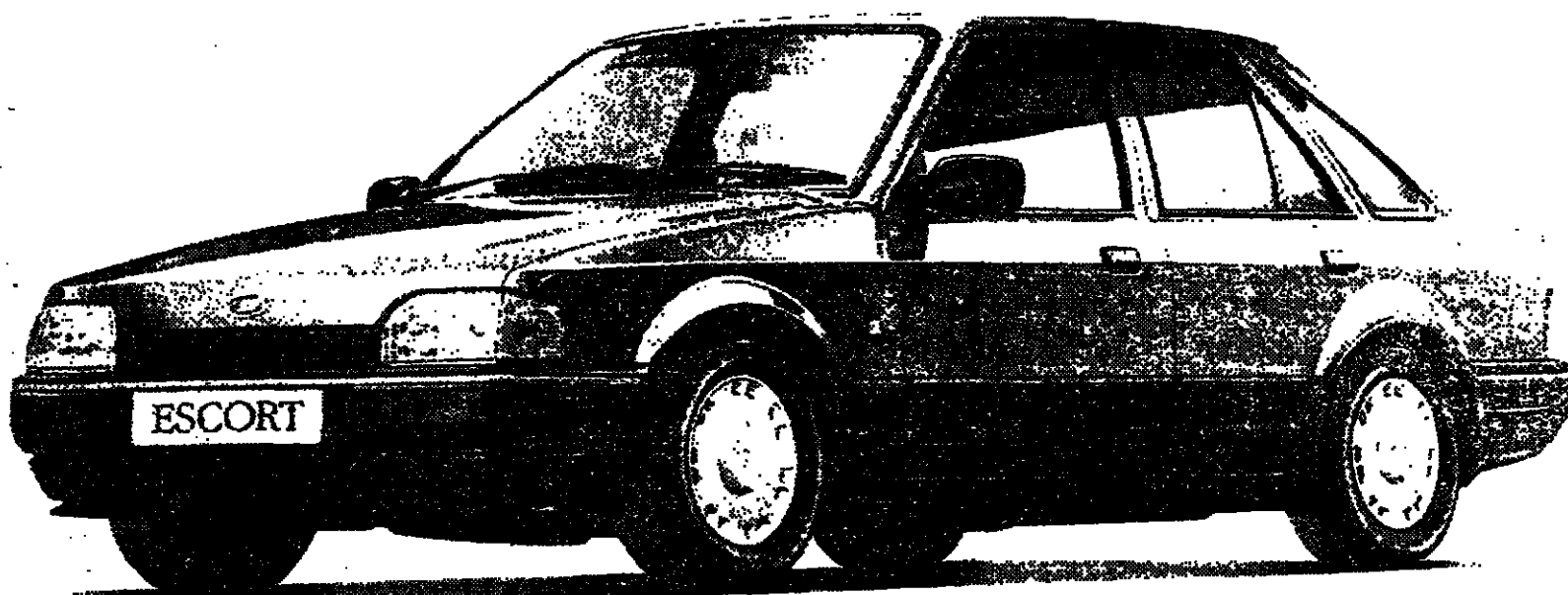
# The day that Earth trembled

DOZENS of earthquakes rattled Earth on Wednesday, the 34th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco quake (Our Foreign Staff writes). About 75 tremors shook northern California, several small ones hit Southern California, and there was a moderate tremor on the Indiana-Ohio border.

A quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale, hit the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan and neighbouring areas of Xinjiang in China. But the biggest, registering 7.5, struck in the Celebes Sea between Indonesia and the Philippines. No serious casualties have been reported.

# Nepal leader is sworn in

Delhi — Mr Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, Nepal's new Prime Minister, was sworn in yesterday as head of an interim coalition, formally ending 30 years of direct royal rule (Christopher Thomas writes). The 11-man Cabinet consists of members of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front—both illegal until 12 days ago—and two nominees of King Birendra.



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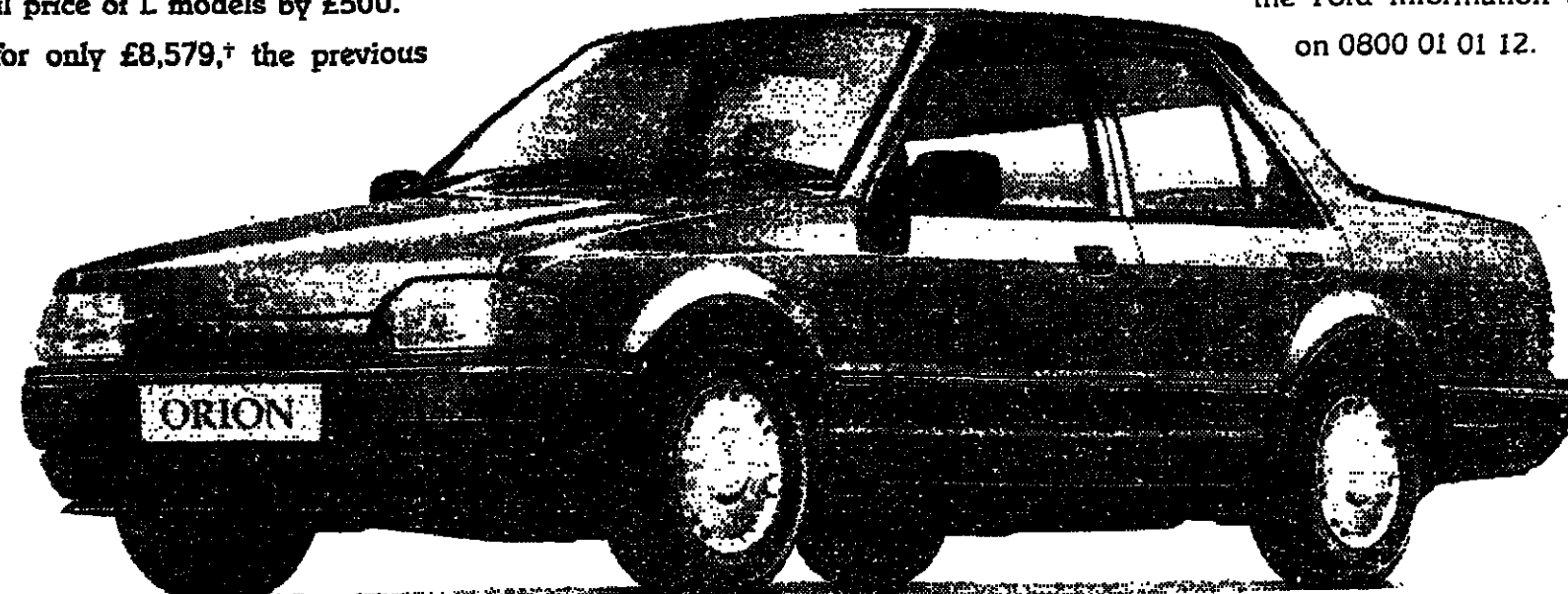
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36 Monthly Payments of	£147.14	£192.72	£186.90	£198.13
Charge for Credit	£217.54	£1165.99	£1154.00	£1223.28
Total Credit Price	£2450.54	£3702.99	£3974.00	£4104.28
7.9% (APR 15.1%)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1110.00	£1315.80	£1664.00	£1764.00
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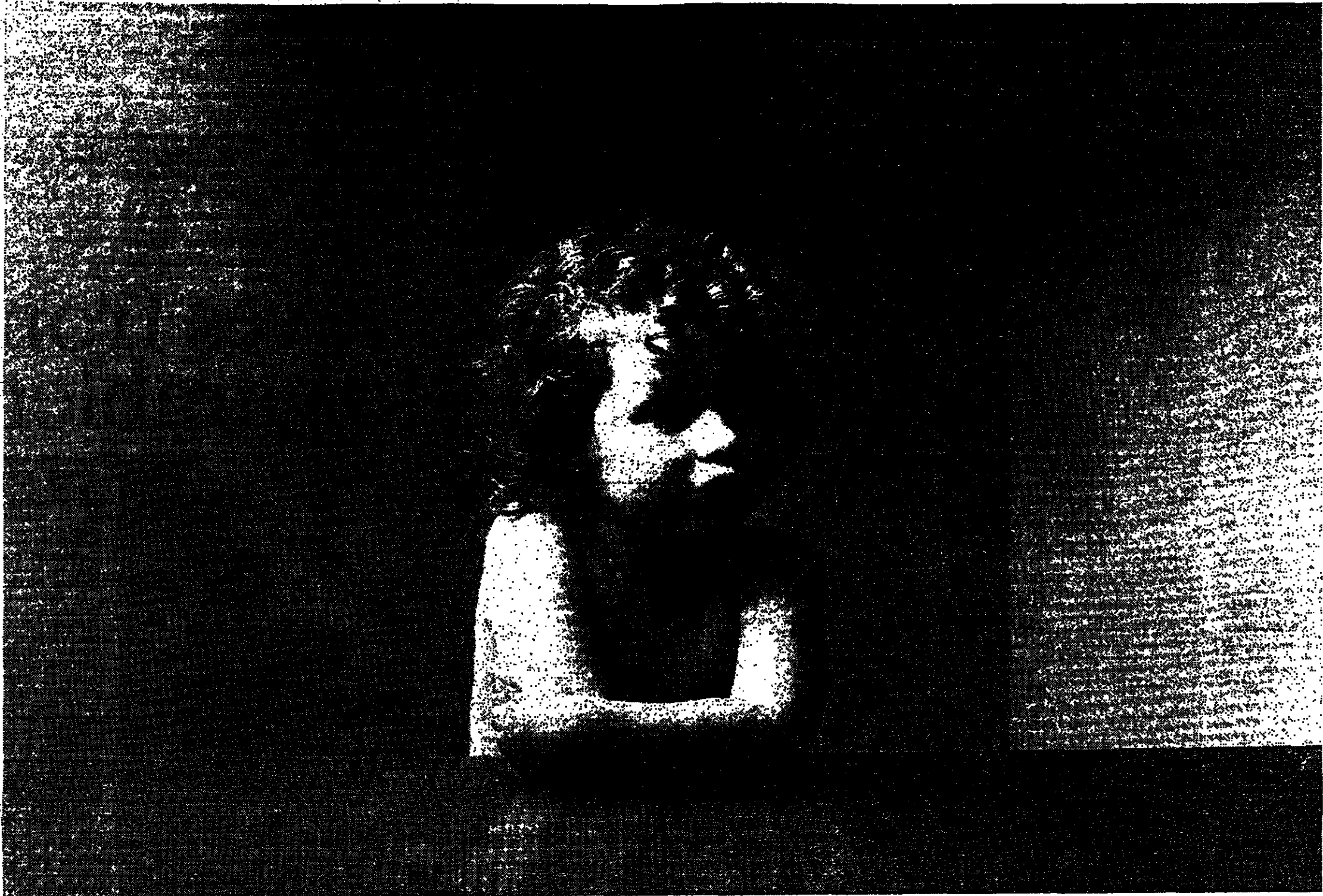
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# Meanings for all seasons

Philip Howard: new words for old

In the 2000s we shall be known by our words as well as our works. Will our generation be represented in the dictionaries by *bimbo*, *yuppie* and *video-nasty*, or by *golden parachute* and *unbending* (Sir James Goldsmith's elegant euphemism for asset stripping), or by words as yet uncoined? Characteristic words can typify an age, as the French imports *reign*, *royalty*, *rule*, *battle*, *strife* and *war* signalled that the Normans had landed in the English language as well as on the Sussex beaches, and *mini*, in both its senses, as brief skirt and handy little car, symbolised the Sixties.

*Laser*, *nuke*, *axis*, the *Establishment* and perhaps *radius* all sound to me like modern, 20th-century words. This just shows that there is nothing new in the dictionary — because they have been around, most of them for more than six centuries, in the tool-box of the English language, doing jobs and signifying meanings quite different from their modern ones.

*Axis*, of course, meant the axis of the earth or the axle of a wheel long before Hitler made a political association and then a military alliance with Mussolini, and then Hirohito. But long before that, *axis* meant a fever. King James I of Scotland uses it in the *Kingis Quair* ("The King's Book"), written while he was a prisoner in England, in about 1424, the time of his marriage to Lady Jane Beaufort, who is the poem's heroine. C. S. Lewis called it the first poem in celebration of married love, although in fact there are German poems of this kind from about 1200, including a famous one by Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Der helen Minne*. The royal prisoner, lamenting his misfortune, sees a beautiful lady walking in the garden below, and is smitten. The metre has been known ever since as rhyme-royal, though it had previously been used by Chaucer in *Troilus and Criseyde*. The *Kingis Quair* is one of the works, traditionally described as "Scottish Chaucerian". Here is James on *axis*:

Bot tho began myn axis and  
To sene hir part, and folwe I na  
myght.

Six centuries before it was introduced to mean a way of amplifying light by squeezing out an extremely narrow and monochromatic beam, and an important if improbable component of Star Wars, *laser* was the Scottish way of spelling leisure. Here is Robert Henryson (1424-1506 give or take a few years), the dour but humane schoolmaster from Dunfermline, and another Scottish Chaucerian, in *The Uplandis Mous*:

Bot, as God wald, it fell ane  
happy cace  
The Spencer had na laser for  
byde,  
Nouthir to seik nor serche.

And here is William Dunbar, the greatest of the Scottish Chaucerians:

## ALAN COREN

Sorry about this. But for fate's goody, you would at this moment have been teetering on the rim of a truly remarkable theory, and poised, your little hand in my big strong one, to plunge into bottomless speculation.

For — sitting in my dawn eyrie and marinating the simultaneous news that a big gun was being bolted together with the object of shooting an Iraqi on to the surface of Mars, that seven prisoners had legged it out of Gloucester chokery by shining down knotted sheets, that the Japanese were about to produce a ship capable of travelling at 100 knots by virtue of giant magnets, that the Hungarian army had recorded an encounter at Tarnaszentmaria barracks with giant extraterrestrial creatures, and that a spokesman for young smookperson Allison Fisher had declared that the only course now open to her was to infiltrate the circuit disguised as a bloke — it had suddenly occurred to me that the world was currently being organized by a couple of mischievous old backs formerly employed by *The Wizard*. How they had got their hands on the world was not immediately apparent, but it was probably something to do with a secret formula they had stumbled across in an old Egyptian tomb and handed to the mad professor in their basement.

Sadly, I have been unable to pursue this to what would have been our mutual satisfaction. For, just as I was musing on exactly how long it might be before Mr Nicholas Ridley confessed that the bits of guttering recently shipped to Guam were indeed parts of a giant sebackscope, or that the true reason behind Vivian Richards's extraordinary outburst was that a small boy in the crowd had succeeded not only in imitating the great man's voice but also in throwing it 200 yards, a blackbird — almost certainly from Porlock — flew past my dormer and drove all such trains of thought into a blind siding.

I stopped there. Monitory neck-hairs had risen, just in time. *Dopey Old Birdsnester Gets Come-Uppance as Limb Snaps* ran the headline in my brain. Used to happen all the time, in *The Wizard*.

I cry the mercy, and laser to  
repent.

For centuries before it got its mathematical and other meanings, *radius* was used to mean radiant. William Dunbar again, in *The Thirrell and the Rous*:

A radius croun of rubis scho  
him gaif.

And seven centuries before nuclear bombs were invented, *nuke* was in English as a variant of *nook* or *nook*, a corner or angular thing, of obscure but at any rate distinctly northern origin. Dunbar in *The Dance of the Sevin Deidly Synnis*:

Than cryd Mahoun for a  
Heland padyanne;  
Synne ran a feynd to feche  
in Makfadyane  
Ffar northwart in a nuke.

And here is Gawin Douglas, yet another Scottish Chaucerian, translating the *Aeneid*:

A stane  
Quhillk of a montane semyt a  
great nuke.

The *locus classicus* for the coining of the *Establishment*, as a social and political OBE's network, is Henry Fairlie in *The Spectator* of September 23, 1955. Well, here is George Eliot in delicious *Daniel Deronda*, in 1876: "This match with Grandcourt presented itself to him as a sort of public affair, perhaps there were ways in which it might even strengthen the Establishment." A later reference to a "match to be accepted on broad general grounds, national and ecclesiastical" shows that this is indeed our own dear Establishment, pinned down by beady-eyed George Eliot (who had the rough personal experience of being put down but not out by several Establishments in her time) a century before the first use recorded by the reference books.

I am not sure what morals we can draw from the appearance of these words centuries before their time (some of them six or seven centuries before), in a kind of King James version. One is that one should always speak softly and carry a big dictionary when pontificating about the English language. Another is that there can hardly be a new word in the English language that has not already been formed as a variant before in the permutations of the 26 letters of our alphabet. Another is that Q is a useless letter, imported by the Normans. Plain Anglo-Saxon used *cw*. Another is that Scottish English is even richer in vocabulary and variants than English English — irritating though this may be to bulldog Sassenachs — because it draws on more sources. And another is that those Scottish Chaucerians were proper poets, unduly neglected because wrongly deemed obscure or difficult or irrelevant. One of the losses in the school and university curriculum is that we are reading less of Chaucer, Dryden and Milton, let alone Dunbar and the jolly King James's boys.

Mary Warnock supports limited parental freedom to choose the sex of a child

# Boys and girls to order, and rightly

After years of research using human embryos immediately after fertilization in the laboratory, it has become possible to distinguish between male and female embryos within 36 hours of fertilization. There are many genetically inherited diseases which afflict only boys (haemophilia is perhaps the best known, but they include Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and others less common). A family with a history of such diseases could therefore now choose to have their children by means of *in-vitro* fertilization, using the wife's eggs and the husband's sperm, and selecting only the female embryos to be implanted.

It seems to me certainly right to allow a child to be born who will not suffer rather than one who will. I do not believe therefore that there are any moral objections that can be sustained to the use of the new techniques. Indeed, it was on the supposition that such techniques would be developed that the House of Lords voted overwhelmingly in favour of permitting research using human embryos up to 14 days from fertilization. Their faith that such

beneficial outcomes would be possible has now been justified.

But there is much more research to be done. For example, female children may be carriers of the diseases that affect their brothers, so it is essential to continue research that will allow the diagnosis of female carriers at the embryonic stage. We should also continue to research into how to identify the genes responsible for these diseases, although this does not necessarily involve the use of whole embryos.

Three moral objections are raised against the new techniques of sex selection. First, there is the radical view that no fertilized embryo should be allowed to die, and that if *in-vitro* techniques are used at all, all fertilized embryos, male or female, defective or otherwise, should be placed in the uterus. This view is in effect incompatible with the continued use of *in-vitro* fertilization techniques, for no conscientious doctor would deliberately cause a woman to become pregnant with a baby likely to be diseased. People who hold these views should have nothing to do with *in-vitro* fertilization, and of course no one wishes to make them undertake it.

Second, it is argued that once the procedures for choosing the sex of a child become standard, they will be frivolously used. It is generally assumed that couples would prefer boys, but in a society which does not limit the number of children a couple may have, I cannot see why. Some couples might choose to have a boy first to carry on their name, but most would choose to have a girl thereafter, if they had the option.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the sex of a child can be determined only outside the womb, which involves *in-vitro* fertilization. This is a relatively disagreeable and time-consuming process for the couple, especially the mother, and so far its success rate has not been very high. Until further research is done to improve the techniques, no more than a quarter of all attempts to implant the embryo fertilized in the laboratory actually result in a pregnancy. Most couples who want children will of course prefer to have them the ordinary way and take their chance.

But, in any case, if it is feared that people might whimsically decide to go through the risks and hazards in order to have a boy

rather than a girl, it is perfectly possible to introduce regulations to specify the family conditions under which sex selection will be permitted (and this in my view might properly include the selection of a male baby for those with hereditary titles).

Under new legislation, it is probable that a statutory body will be set up to issue licences not only for research, but for *in-vitro* fertilization clinics. Nothing could be easier, therefore, than to issue guidelines for ruling out frivolous applications for sex-selected babies. It could be stipulated that no application would be considered unless it were for the avoidance of a specified disease. Special cases could be considered by ethical committees. This should be enough to allay people's fears.

A third argument is sometimes put forward as a reason to restrict research that aims to eliminate inherited diseases. It is said that if genetically handicapping diseases were reduced, children who were nevertheless born handicapped would be regarded as "accidents" who managed to slip through some kind of eugenic net, and accordingly would be less cared for and more despised. I cannot

see the logic of this argument. It is just as likely that if there were fewer severely handicapped children, we could afford to take more care of them.

I cannot believe in a policy which lumps all disabled or handicapped people together as a class, and then aims to ensure that their numbers do not diminish. There is in reality no comparison between the child who is born deaf or with mild mental retardation, and one who is born with Tay-Sachs disease or cystic fibrosis, who, to the acute distress of the parents, will lead a miserable and painful life for a few years and then die, still in childhood but without having enjoyed any of its pleasures.

It is a disservice to those people who are disabled to use them as counters to halt the kind of research that will bring an end to such suffering. The prospect of ultimately eliminating some of these genetic diseases should be greeted with the kind of gratitude we properly accord to medical pioneers who have improved the quality of all our lives.

Lady Warnock chaired the Committee on Human Fertilization, 1982-84

# Gorbachov moves from gamesman to gambler

James Sherr on a critical change in the Soviet duel with Lithuania

The sharp curtailment of Soviet oil and gas shipments to Lithuania is not President Gorbachov's first move to escalate the secession crisis, but it is his first gamble. For the past six weeks Moscow has applied pressure of the sort that is easily masked and easily reversed. To those who experience it, the seizure of government offices, printing presses and despatchers is coercion. To the outsider, it is "psychological pressure" and nothing more. So long as outsiders believe that, editors will be written and warnings issued, but the business of improving East-West relations will proceed.

By making good his ultimatum, Mr Gorbachov has moved conspicuously from psychological to material attack. What is conspicuous provokes. Mr Gorbachov doubtless hopes that he will provoke the Lithuanians to settle or at least agree to a "Leninist compromise" which submits their claim of independence to the judgment of Soviet law.

But supposing his measures merely sharpen their appetite for resistance and sacrifice? To date, the Western public has been concerned but not stirred. This could change if food supplies dwindle for want of transport, and hospital wards close for want of electricity. Once it becomes an instrument of state policy, suffering can provoke as much outrage as force.

To all appearances, then, yesterday's events mark a further muddling of the crisis. But so long as Lithuanians demand the restoration of their independence and the Soviet leaders wish to remain Soviet leaders, a mutually satisfactory resolution of the crisis is unlikely. If Gorbachov accedes to demands from Lithuania and other Baltic states, he risks fuelling secessionist sentiment throughout the Soviet Union. The risk arises despite a clear difference in principle between the situation of the Baltic republics and that of others.

The difference is not that the Baltic states never consented to

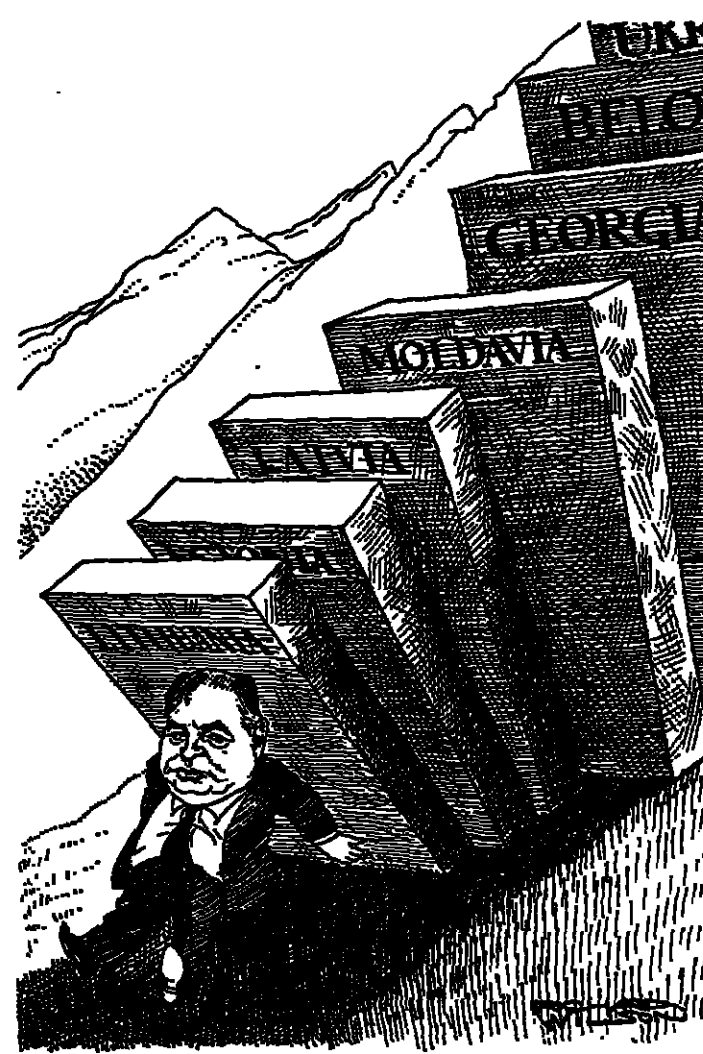
join the Soviet Union. That is the similarity, for the Soviet Union has never been a voluntary union. As the Baltic states were abducted, so were Moldavia and the territories that now form much of western Belorussia and western Ukraine. Georgia did not volunteer for admission until its independent Menshevik republic was crushed by a Bolshevik invasion in 1921. Nor did the Turkic peoples of central Asia, where repression of the Basmachi insurgency continued until the 1930s.

The difference is that the Baltic states were states up to the time of their abduction, internationally recognized (unlike Georgia) and in regular intercourse with other states for 22 years. Moreover, the instrument of *de facto* incorporation, the secret protocols to the German-Soviet non-aggression treaty of 1939, is regarded by the West — and now, it seems, by the Soviet authorities themselves — as having no legal foundation.

So the Lithuanians are claiming redress for aggression, and the restoration of independence, not its granting. Yet the issue continues to be cast in terms of self-determination, and Mr Gorbachov knows that if the Lithuanians succeed, others will seek to follow.

For this reason, too, the Lithuanians know that it is not in Mr Gorbachov's interests to help them. They recognize that he has picked a quarrel over means — the manner of Lithuania's secession — to disguise a dispute over ends. If they trusted Mr Gorbachov's hints that a face-saving path to independence could be found, they would probably help him find it. Instead, what they see is a law on secession which is a law against it. The law is proof enough that Mr Gorbachov would not use a five-year transition period to help Lithuania to the exit, but to bind it hand and foot.

However, some have suggested that if only the Lithuanians were willing to compromise, they could remain in the Soviet Union in terms more favourable than they



would secure by leaving it. This one is entitled to doubt. Over the past five years, Mr Gorbachov has shown himself to be an integrationist rather than a devolutionist. His model of a Soviet federation is one that many non-Russians find even less attractive than Brezhnev's. Where Brezhnev tolerated diversity — and corruption — as the price of stability, Mr Gorbachov has purged, pruned and dictated. He has also sought to intensify the workings of an economic system long considered exploitative and ecologically ruinous. Today in the Baltic states, the Caucasus and Central Asia, he reaps what he and his predecessors have sown. Although he is capable

of reversing course in his nationalities policy, he is compromised in the eyes of those he must convince. This is certainly true in Lithuania itself. Since March 11, when independence was declared, Mr Gorbachov's tactics have followed the classic pattern of discipline, coordination and underhandedness.

The discipline has been manifest in the crafting of means which would not compromise wider ends. This process began as long as a year ago, when "Tass correspondents" sought to gauge the limits of Western tolerance (occasionally in telephone interviews to conservative opinion leaders, raising the "hypothetical" question of what the response would be if force were

used). The lukewarm response of Western governments to the Tsimanien Square massacre, and their almost sympathetic response to the dispatch of troops to Azerbaijan doubtless sent signals as well. By the winter of 1989, Mr Gorbachov probably concluded that he would be safe if the coercion fell short of violence.

By this time, the real necessity for restraint was internal. As a Marxist, Mr Gorbachov knows that violence can have revolutionary consequences for those who use it as well as those who suffer it. The reliability (and strength) of Soviet security forces is far from limitless. A military coup *de main* in Lithuania is within Soviet power, but the battle would not be worth winning if it triggered explosions elsewhere in the Baltic states, Belorussia or the Ukraine, for if the battle became much larger, it might not be won.

The result of these constraints has been a strategy of force without violence. The strategy has several merits. For one, it was unexpected, confounding both the opponent and its potential supporters. For another, it enables pressure to be administered in digestible doses. What stunned on Monday was routine by Thursday and could be augmented on Friday. Measures which would have met resistance if carried out at once were tolerated when introduced gradually. But the strategy had a drawback: it destroyed goodwill on the other side. Like all Leninist strategies, it aimed to produce agreement by manoeuvre rather than by persuasion.

Within the past 24 hours, Mr Gorbachov has not only intensified the pressure, but changed it. The change shows that Lithuanians have recovered their balance and been strengthened in their collective resolve. Yet it also illustrates the risks that Mr Gorbachov is willing to take to preserve the integrity of the Soviet Union. There is a great risk, for if the Lithuanians do not soon yield, Mr Gorbachov's East-West policy may suffer grave damage. And if Mr Gorbachov himself yields, he may encourage the very forces of dissolution he is aiming to defeat. The author is Lecturer in International Relations at Lincoln College, Oxford.

## Oxfam found wanting

The Charity Commissioners, who are already holding discussions with Oxfam about its increasingly political stance, will be interested to learn that the charity is about to launch a campaign to persuade the Government to impose sanctions against South Africa. This despite the Commission's rule that "the powers and purposes of a charity should not include power to bring pressure to bear on the government to adapt or alter or maintain a particular line of action."

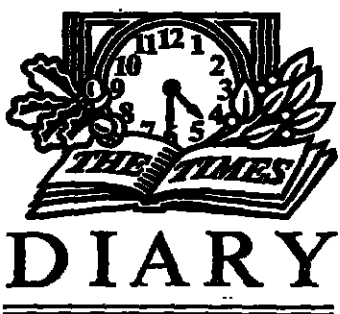
Oxfam will launch its campaign on April 29 with the publication of a report, *Front Line Africa: The Right to a Future*, which will call on the British government to join other Commonwealth nations in imposing sanctions. A spokeswoman for Oxfam says that the charity "hopes" that this will not get it into deep water. She points out that for the last six months the charity has been a member of the Southern Africa Coalition, an umbrella organization of about 100 groups that has supported the call for sanctions. The Oxfam campaign will also be endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu when he delivers the annual Oxfam lecture in June.

Tutu will be in Britain to collect an honorary degree from Oxford University (something, it will be recalled, the dons voted to withhold from Mrs Thatcher). Needless to say, the move has provoked anger among supporters of South Africa, who were quick to point out yesterday that Oxfam was meant to put food into starving

mouths not take it out of them. The Conservative MP John Grieve says: "In the absence of a social security system, people lose their jobs and homes, and need more charitable help from abroad. Asking for sanctions might make Oxfam feel better, but it makes Africans feel hungrier."

## Tailor made

Gieves & Hawkes of Savile Row might seem a curious location for the party on Wednesday night to launch the film *Mountains of the Moon*, about the search for the source of the Nile, but there was a reason. On these premises, the body of the explorer David Livingstone, who is a character in the film, lay in state exactly 116 years before, when the shop was the map room of the Royal Geographical Society. One of the great man's descendants, also David Livingstone, was much in evidence, confiding that his famous surname came from his grandmother, "but we didn't want to lose it, so it was adopted by her descendants". His wife, Louisa, sported a ring of the explorer's, and Bernard Hill, the actor who plays him in the film, carried a symbolic present of Livingstone's vice-consular hat, usually kept in a biscuit tin at the Kensington headquarters of the RGS. Robert Gieves, vice-chairman of the tailor's, engaged the explorer's descendant in earnest conversation. Unfortunately he was unable to utter the words, "Dr Livingstone, I presume", as he was unaware of his companion's identity until too late. "I couldn't believe it when he told me," he said in bewilderment.



## Out on bail

Press officers accompanying Foreign Secretaries on overseas tours are often required to act above and beyond the call of duty, but none more so than Andrew Burns, 46, who stands down today as head of the Foreign Office Press corps. Burns's colleagues still recall with admiration the occasion when he accompanied a party of journalists on a river voyage in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. He was on the last leg of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Middle East tour and the boat started to sink. An admirer recalls: "Burns simply took off his shoe and bailed until they reached dry land." The Foreign Office was last night too busy feting Burns on his departure to confirm his shoe size.

## Silent film star

If proof is needed of how well Garbo guarded her privacy, look no further than the American Press, whose obituaries struggled to say anything about her beyond listing her film roles. Apart from the local off-licence manager retailing the number of

Stolichnaya and Scotch bottles delivered to her apartment, the papers have restricted themselves to multifarious accounts of "the Garbo I never knew". The doyenne of New York gossip columnists and breaker of the Trump divorce story, Liz Smith, was reduced to relating how "friends had promised to introduce me to Garbo but it never happened." She almost met Garbo in Athens and almost met her again at a beach house on Long Island, but the nearest she got was through a pair of binoculars. The *Washington Post* managed to get a little closer. Its tribute by Daniel Schorr consisted of an account of a fleeting exchange at a dinner party. He offered her some pleasant company, she replied "Oh really," and left. "What was Greta Garbo like in real life?" he asks. "Who knows?" Who indeed.

## Cinema blues

Movie festivals arrive thick and fast in Paris, but besides this week's homage to Eric Rohmer and Ava Gardner, the city's fervent cinema-goers are also offered a commemoration of Les Annees Thatcher. Half a dozen British films from the past decade are running almost non-stop. The French view of the Britain of the Eighties will be formed by *Distant Voices*, *Monty Python* and *The Meaning of Life*. *Prick Up Your Ears*, *Local Hero* and what sounds suspiciously like an obituary for monetarism, *Drowning By Numbers*. Has our cinema industry no conventional or nuclear response to this — or none better than *Allo Allo*?

## A bigger beef

A bookshops all over Britain mark Green Book Fortnight, where is Britain's best known green, Jonathan Porritt, in this high-profile promotion? The answer is nowhere. The definitive environmental manifesto, *The Coming of the Greens*, by the director of Friends of the Earth has aroused the wrath of the fast-food chain McDonald's. Porritt is critical of their employment policies, which has led the Big Mac people to fire off solicitors' letters. Another victim is Karen Christensen, whose *Green Ecology* also impugns the company's green credentials. A McDonald's "corporate policy statement" affirms the company's concern for all things environmental. Publishers have had no choice but to suspend distribution.

## Floating voters

One argument the whips did not employ in their efforts to head off last night's Tory backbench rebellion over Hong Kong passports is that the majority of the 50,000 Hong Kong Chinese-Tory families, should MP Jerry Hayes of Harlow, has set up a Cantonese-speaking constituency association. The branch is already eagerly recruiting living in the Essex town. Hayes is anxious to attract any Hong Kong Chinese granted entry to Britain to learning Chinese and, unsurprisingly, was not among Norman Tebbit's rebels last night.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## IN PRAISE OF FOLLY

A day after the first interruption of oil and gas supplies to Lithuania, the Soviet policy of economic sanctions against the rebellious republic is already exposing Moscow to ridicule. Not only does the attempt to isolate Lithuania from the rest of the Soviet economy appear to have been carried out by bunglers, the design itself — for which President Gorbachev cannot escape responsibility — must surely prove counter-productive, as is the norm with economic sanctions.

From the moment that Mr Gorbachev decided, mercifully, not to use military force and thus risk his carefully nurtured *détente* with the West, the final outcome has been in little doubt. Economic sanctions are merely a face-saver. The consequences, as with all such sanctions, are dreadfully predictable. Already other Soviet republics have begun quietly to make themselves more self-sufficient, as an insurance policy for the future.

The Lithuanians' mood has visibly brightened. President Landsbergis has roused his people with words of Churchillian nobility: "Lithuania has suffered much graver hardship in the past, and if it must suffer this as well, it is not the worst thing that could happen to us." The Lithuanians' resolution will be severely tested in the coming weeks. Their creature comforts will be curtailed and they will no doubt be deprived of electricity and the use of their motor cars and all manner of other convenient things — though for once a Russian leader does not have General Winter on his side.

History affords few cases of successful economic blockades, and virtually none which were not supported by military force. Napoleon's grandiose blockade quite failed to bring Britain to terms; two battles of the Atlantic this century taught the same lesson. The attempt to starve the Germans into submission would also have failed if their armies had not been beaten in the field. It was an American oil embargo against Japan which, far from discouraging Japanese aggression, precipitated Pearl Harbor.

Sanctions in peacetime have been tried against Rhodesia and Panama with equal lack of success. Though South Africa may yet yield

to the black majority, economic sanctions will have played no part in that result. The South African armaments industry, among others, owes its size and wealth almost entirely to an external arms embargo. The failure of sanctions to achieve anything against the Soviet Union itself — whether during the post-revolutionary period or, more recently, after the invasion of Afghanistan — ought to have brought home to Mr Gorbachev their futility.

Indeed, there are grounds for believing that the Soviet blockade of Lithuania may actually speed the process of transforming its command economy into a market one. Before sanctions, Lithuanians had a choice between moving to a market economy and squandering their surplus resources by operating their branch of a centralized Soviet economy. Now the latter option is closed to them. Mr Gorbachev is doing Mr Landsbergis a favour.

Despite this, the West should not shrink from expressing its disapproval of Soviet conduct at every opportunity. Compared to a free-trading Lithuania which might have been a valuable example for *perestroika* in the Soviet Union, Mr Gorbachev's harassment may, if pursued to the bitter end, deprive the Baltic republic of the benefits of Western trade and investment. Whatever the short-term benefits of self-sufficiency under siege, in the long term free trade is always beneficial, protectionism undesirable and autarky still more so.

None the less, all metaphors which depict economies "grinding to a halt" or being "strangled" by sanctions are misleading. At worst, an economy which is deprived of trade with the outside world — and Soviet threats still fall far short of that — must revert to a lower level of development by substituting the materials which are at hand for those which it can no longer import. Lithuania has a treasure which even the greatest rulers have generally found it expensive to underestimate: an able people, committed to their cause and ready — nay, eager — to endure hardship. Such political realities will always triumph over economic ones. Sticks and stones — and guns — might have broken Lithuanian bones, but economic sanctions will never hurt them.

## CAPITAL ERROR

Any political problem needs only a minister to solve it: thus went the standard maxim of the old corporatism, whispers of which are now creeping back into public discourse. London is widely regarded as problematic. So what "better" says Westminster Council's leader, "Lady Porter, than a minister for London? Such a minister, with far-seeing officials and parliamentary clout, should end transport overcrowding, clear up litter, house the homeless and banish urban squalor."

Behind this ambition lie two superficially plausible arguments. The first states that only a dedicated minister can mobilize sufficient pressure on the Treasury to secure bigger subsidies for the capital. At present, London is just one city among many, forced to take its place in the budgetary queue with Glasgow and Manchester and Birmingham. Yet London's demands for resources, implies Lady Porter, are of a different order. New lines for the Underground, cleaning up after tourists, caring for the rootless young drawn by London's magnetism, all make the capital a special case.

The second argument says that since the abolition of the Greater London Council, London is bereft of regional co-ordination. Whitehall is now, in effect, the co-ordinator. Why then not formalize this function within a proper ministry, rather than by *ad hoc* inter-departmental committees from the transport, environment, Home Office and arts ministries? Geography should triumph over function, London, after all, is a world city.

Certainly any visitor to the great cities of the north, and of Wales and Scotland, is struck by the huge investment in roads and housing they have received over the past two decades. Investment in London's infrastructure has been paltry in comparison to that of, for instance, Glasgow. But this has been the result of deliberate support for the regions. Much of it occurred when London did indeed have a

fully-fledged, democratic strategic authority. Nor is there an overwhelming case for more resources to be directed specifically at London, with the possible exception of new Tube tunnels, which are constantly in the minds of transport ministers and their Treasury counterparts.

Ministers appointed as political gimmicks rather than in response to administrative requirements tend to fail: they have come and gone for disarmament, for science, for drought, for the north-east, for Liverpool. Labour threatens a ministry for women, and is already regretting it. Mrs Thatcher has appointed ministers for inner cities, to widespread Whitehall and political ridicule. Last year, a bizarre announcement was made appointing specific ministers to "oversee" seven inner cities, including one for London, Mr Colin Moylan. They have sunk without trace.

London claims an enormous amount of Whitehall attention, some of it effective. Infrastructural improvements are now back on the agenda. Government has proved reasonably generous to the arts in London. Despite the shambles of the poll tax, a sensible policy has been pursued of devolving administration to the boroughs from the old GLC, taking local government theoretically out of reach of too much ministerial intervention.

Ministers appointed for cosmetic purposes tend to intervene cosmetically. They meddle rather than help. There are certainly problems left in the air by the abolition of the GLC, including the planning of tourism, green belt policy, care in the community and transport regulation. In such, strictly limited, areas London is the poorer for the lack of a strategic regional authority. But the answer is to consider what form such a (modest) authority might take, not to run crying to the nursemaids of Whitehall and Westminster.

## SICK AS A PARROT

The Football Writers' Association has decided to play it tight: a close passing game with a few men up front and a sweeper to mop up intruders at the back. It is in danger, however, of scoring an own goal.

The association has come to an agreement with the Football League. Under a one-year pilot scheme starting next season, the managers of the league's 92 clubs will have to submit to *après-match* press conferences, producing at least two players of mutual choice. Managers who decline may be penalized. The privilege of attending these occasions will be reserved for writers' association card-carrying members. Barclays Bank, as the league's sponsors, are providing the cards.

The scheme has attractions for both parties. It will save football writers from hanging around in draughty corridors or rainsoaked car parks, damp notebook and ballpoint pen in hand, anxiously waiting for pearls of wisdom from Messrs Dalglish, Clough or Venables. Instead, they can stay inside a warm conference room, secure in the knowledge that the great men will be produced before them to share their insights on the game.

But that is not the point. The point is to protect the league against the "cowboy" journalist, the writer who might just confirm a widespread public suspicion that the footballing world is less than assiduous in setting rather unsavoury houses in order. The card is seen as a guarantee to vouch for the "integrity" of the journalist.

The experiment had its origins two years ago when relations between the league and the press reached a nadir. To what extent this was the fault of the press rather than the football authorities is clearly moot. How such a scheme can be said to be in the public interest is even

less clear. Under it, complaints by managers or players of misreporting or distortion may be referred to a disciplinary panel. The membership of this august body will include two representatives of the writers, two from the Football League, one from the league's executive staff association (which includes managers) and one from the Professional Footballers' Association. Sitting under the chairmanship of Mr Denis Howell, MP, a former sports minister and referee, the panel could discipline a football correspondent, even to the extent of withdrawing his Barclayscard.

Professional bodies vary widely in size, shape and scope, from those which regulate entry to those which simply exist as social clubs. Some seek to raise the standards of their craft, others protect the interests of their members, others guard against innovative or inconvenient outsiders. It is one thing to encourage excellence or to operate a voluntary code of conduct which guards against the rapscallion and the knave. It is quite another to form a closed society in alliance with those on the "other side".

In this case the disciplinary committee which will sit in judgement on alleged miscreants (and could clearly damage their careers) will have a majority from the sport's administration. That the FWA could agree to such a plan is astonishing. Not even the much-maligned Westminster lobby subjects itself to such boss-eyed oversight.

By all means raise the football writer's status — not to mention standards of football playing and management. But by creating a cosy condominium, the association risks damaging its craft. If they cannot come in from the cold without forfeiting their independence, football writers had much better stay out in the car park.

## UK ahead on EC obligations

From Mr Kenneth J. Forder  
Sir, Ronald Butt (April 11) discussed why the United Kingdom is apparently dragging its feet in wholeheartedly embracing all the requirements of the EC. The most important characteristic of the relationship between the United Kingdom and its 11 fellow member states is not that Britain is slow in taking on its obligations, but that it is too conscientious and painstaking about fulfilling what it has committed itself to do.

I represent the competent authority for the administration of the architects' directive which came into operation in August, 1987. The United Kingdom, having signed acceptance of the directive, immediately introduced legislation to introduce it almost dead on time, the first of the 12 member states to do so.

Nearly three years later three of those states (although they signed the directive along with the others) have still not put their obligations into practice. Professional men who come to this country from those three states are being registered for practice in this country, whereas British professional men going to their countries are facing a high refusal. All the indications are that this sort of approach is quite widespread and not restricted to the architectural profession.

Yours etc.  
KENNETH J. FORDER (Registrar),  
Architects Registration Council of the United Kingdom,  
73 Hallam Street, W1,  
April 11.

## Timing of exams

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference  
Sir, For sheer perversity, the letter from the chairman of the Joint Council for the GCSE (April 16) takes some beating. No one quarrels with his list of main concerns: they were the main concerns of the erstwhile GCE and CSE boards. It is his other assertions which defy credibility.

The bulk of the timetable does not fall in June; it falls in May. Most candidates will have finished most of their exams before the May Bank holiday. Some schools break up at the end of June precisely because of the timing of the GCSE examinations. To claim the reverse is to place a most unwelcome cart in front of a very angry and frustrated horse.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID JEWELL, Chairman,  
The Headmasters' Conference,  
Haileybury,  
Hertford,  
April 17.

From Mr Geoffrey Peake  
Sir, Enrolments for examinations are now required so early, often immediately after Christmas, that it is impossible for the student and/or tutor to assess properly their chance of success in the summer. As a result, there are frequent cases of students not turning up for examinations, something which can turn out to be quite a costly business for the individual, educational institution and local authority, depending on who is paying the not insubstantial fees.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY PEAKE  
(Open learning co-ordinator),  
Tameside College of Technology,  
Beaumont Road,  
Ashton-under-Lyne,  
Tameside, Greater Manchester,  
April 17.

## Hardback novels

From Councillor C. W. Wyatt-Millington  
Sir, The recent decision by Cambridgeshire County Council to reduce the purchase of hardback fiction (letter, April 9) does not mean that we will buy "almost no hardback fiction".

Our new computer stock-control system in larger libraries shows that nearly 30 per cent of adult fiction issues are already taking place through the use of paperbacks, and in order to make savings a decision has been taken to reduce the number of hardback fiction titles rather than affect the whole range of material purchased.

We are aware that many titles may never appear in paperback and £100,000 will still be spent on hardback fiction.  
Yours faithfully,  
C. W. WYATT-MILLINGTON  
(Chairman, Libraries and Arts Service Advisory Group),  
Cambridgeshire County Council,  
Castle Court, Shire Hall,  
Cambridge,  
April 12.

## Final chapter?

From Mrs H. E. Perkins  
Sir, I was disturbed to read the view attributed to an official of the School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC), as reported today (April 6), that

Since so much of English literature is covered in National Curriculum English there would hardly be enough left over to justify an examination in a separate subject.

This is plainly ludicrous. How can such a rich and varied heritage of literature, which extends back as far as the 10th century and Beowulf, be swept aside so easily and be said to offer "little scope" for study? Can the SEAC really believe that the intricacies of the English language and 1,000 years of literature can be adequately covered in one GCSE paper? If they do, then one can only assume that their education was as lacking as the one they now advocate for future generations.

## Physical dangers in cocaine use

From Professor G. G. Nahas

Sir, Your leading article of April 10, quoting "conventional opinion", appears to equate cocaine with tobacco and alcohol. Such an equation is at variance with current scientific knowledge. Cocaine, in amounts currently used by cocaine consumers, will produce the following changes in heart and brain:

1. A narrowing of coronary vessels which results in acute and chronic damage to the myocardium. Episodes of myocardial ischemia (lack of oxygen delivery to the heart) have been recorded in former cocaine addicts for 10 days after abstinence from the drug.
2. A narrowing of cerebral blood vessels of the brain, with a decrease in flow through frontal and parietal lobes. These changes are measurable for 10 days after cocaine abstinence.
3. An impairment of basic brain biochemical mechanisms in areas of the brain controlling reasonable coherent behavior. These changes, which curtail the exercise of free will, are persistent, and have led to episodes of dementia.

All pharmacologists recognize that cocaine is the most reinforcing drug known to man, capable of inducing a dominant, compulsive, drug-seeking behavior in just about any individual, even after limited exposure. Cocaine releases in brain and body substances related to adrenaline; these can reach damaging concentrations, while imparting an exhilarating feeling of rewarding activity which is imprinted in the

brain and can only be maintained by more cocaine.

Such effects have not been observed with the use of tobacco, alcohol or small doses. To claim cannabis is "less harmful" than they are is to overlook all of the studies which demonstrate impairment of memory and psychomotor performance caused by this drug. Retrospective studies have also linked chronic cannabis use with schizophrenia.

Illicit addictive drugs are much more harmful to man and society than tobacco or small doses of alcohol, and there are sound reasons to interdict their use, except for medical purposes. Throughout history, control of illicit addictive drugs has only been achieved by interdiction measures (in contrast with the British practice of providing heroin to registered heroin users, which was far from successful).

Between 1910 and 1960 in the United States, Egypt and Europe, and between 1950 and 1990 in Sweden, Japan and South-east Asia, these interdiction measures were based on a general consensus of social refusal of addictive drugs, initiated and supported by an enlightened leadership, which at that time also included *The Times*.

Yours etc.,  
GABRIEL G. NAHAS,  
College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University,  
Department of Anesthesiology,  
New York, NY 10032, USA,  
April 12.

## Drug education

From Dr Harish Swadi

Sir, The Government is yet again embarking on a grand advertising campaign (report, April 10), hoping to curb the demand on drugs. What can be the purpose? Most probably to scare young people off.

Yet those of us who know adolescents well also know that part of being an adolescent is the willingness to live dangerously. Furthermore, it has been said that if you want adolescents to do something, tell them not to do it. That may be an exaggeration, but there is some truth in it.

Another possible objective is to supply young people with information regarding drugs. There is ample evidence that we can supply them with as much information as we like. They may even pick it up. But, at the end of the day, it will make no difference to whether they will, or will not, try drugs.

We have to differentiate between propaganda, which can be counter-productive and educational campaigns. If the proposed campaign is anything like those we have known before, then it will never win the war against drugs; it may win a few votes.

Yours sincerely,  
H. SWADI (Consultant child and family psychiatrist),  
Midway Health Authority,  
Department for Child and Family Consultation,  
Elmsleigh, 118 Maidstone Road,  
Chatham, Kent,  
April 12.

From Mr Matthew O'Keeffe

Sir, One of the main arguments drug prohibitionists continue to use is that at least young people are protected by prohibition. In fact, decriminalisation would destroy the "forbidden fruit" appeal whereby certain young people may be attracted to drugs precisely because they are illegal. Increased availability would make drugs seem less glamorous.

It is prohibition which involves children directly in the narcotics

trade. Drug dealers have come to mutually advantageous arrangements with teenagers in many American cities; juveniles have little to lose if caught, and thousands of dollars per week to gain as couriers.

By outlawing drug trafficking, government has moved it into the hands of criminals, men who care little about the age of their clients. We should fine-tune our legal arrangements more subtly. Age-stratified legalisation could segregate the very young from drugs in a way the present black market does not.

Yours faithfully,  
MATTHEW O'KEEFFE,  
Jesus College, Oxford,  
April 10.

From Dr Colin Brewer

Sir, The proposal (report, April 10) to carry out random urine tests for illicit drugs on pupils at several public schools ignores important technical advances in this field. Urine tests reveal only what a suspected user has taken during the previous few days. Specimens must also be passed under direct supervision if cheating is to be avoided; this is undignified, time-consuming and genuinely difficult for some people.

Fortunately, most illicit drugs are taken up by the hair during its growth and can be detected even several months later, depending on hair length. Hair-testing can show not only whether a given drug was ever used but also the pattern and intensity of use.

The potential applications (and abuses) of this technique are obvious. Apart from schools, it should make it much easier to detect drug use in athletes. It has also enabled courts to give greater consideration to non-custodial sentences for drug-related offenders if hair-testing is made one condition of a probation order.

Yours etc.,  
COLIN BREWER  
(Medical Director),  
The Stapleford Centre,  
25a Eccleston Street,  
Belgrave, SW1,  
April 17.

## Charitable trusts

From Mr Peter Marshall

Sir, Mr Edgar Palamoutian (April 6) is concerned by how few charitable trusts have been founded over the past decade compared to the number of new rich. With a view to redressing this imbalance, eight northern-based trusts have launched the Northern Initiative, focusing on the rewards of philanthropy — the practical benefits for the beneficiary and personal benefits for the benefactor.

We have instigated the creation of 12 new trusts. There is clearly a need for similar initiatives in other parts of Britain.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER MARSHALL  
(Co-ordinator),  
The Northern Initiative,  
Netherwood House,  
Ilkley, West Yorkshire,  
April 12.

that the current system endears the nation's youth to its literary heritage.

I, for one, do not hold fond memories of my English literature course. For me, being forced to read specific books, and then complete written analysis and comparisons of those works, removed all the enjoyment.

Long after completing my course, all that George Orwell's 1984 and Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* meant to me were feverish Sunday evenings, while scribbling to complete the next day's essay.

The great works of English literature are there to be discovered and enjoyed, and encouragement should be given to that end; but not necessarily within the current system. The primary aim should not be to pass an exam.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL G. CLARK,  
8 York House,  
Lawrie Park Road, SE26.

## Background link to Iraqi gun?

From Sir Peter Tennant

Sir, The story of the Iraqi monster gun goes back to the Second World War when the Saar-Rochling establishment developed the *Hochdruckpumpe* (high-pressure pump) with a barrel of 150 feet. It had paired side branches like herring bones at intervals along the barrel in which were explosive charges fired in sequence automatically to boost the shell to a muzzle velocity of 4,500 feet per second.

The barrels were not rifled but the shells were winged like rockets to give them stability. The firing was a hazardous business as the barrels blew up from time to time, but the missing part could be easily replaced due to the sectional design of the barrel.

The plan was to site five of these guns near Calais, trained on London 85 miles away. Fortunately, with the help of intelligence from the French Resistance the RAF was able in 1944 to bomb the first gun out of action before its test firing. The Canadians uncovered the weapon in their advance along the Channel coast.

Later tactical approaches were made to de Gaulle suggesting it would be a helpful gesture to Anglo-French relations to dismantle the gun. There was no response. I have no idea whether it still exists as a museum piece or has been buried with other memories of those gruesome times.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER TENNANT,  
Blue Anchor House,  
Linchmere Road,  
Haslemere,  
Surrey,  
April 16.

From Mr J. B. Blacklock

Sir, In your conjectural drawings of the Harp super-gun (April 14) I was intrigued to see that the human figure chosen to demonstrate the relative scale of the "glide missiles used" was a female one.

Is this to become a trend? One has, to be sure, become uncritically accustomed to seeing a male figure (whose height we were to assume to be six feet) standing alongside various artifacts as a guide, but that multiple-payload missiles could best be judged in proximity to a maudlin in skirt, woolen jumper, and sensible shoes seems startlingly innovative, not least since she wears the sort of Gioconda smile normally to be seen in classified advertisement pages upon the lips of ladies whose lounges have just been double-glazed or who are satisfied with their surgical stockings.

One further problem: how tall are we to assume her to be? May we hope to see a diagram in which she stands next to her estranged consort, whose height we know, for purposes of comparison and future reference?

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. BLACKLOCK,  
Bank Cottage,  
Queen Street,  
Stradbroke,  
Suffolk,  
April 14.

From Dr A. W. F. Edwards

Sir, In view of the recent discussion about firing satellites into orbit with a gun, this Cambridge examination question may be of interest:

Suppose a body thrown from an eminence upon the Earth, what must be the velocity of Projection, to make it become a secondary planet to the Earth?

The year of the exam was 1785. Yours faithfully,  
A. W. F. EDWARDS,  
Gonville and Caius College,  
Cambridge,  
April 17.

## O to be in London . . .

From Frau Doris Meyer

Sir, This is a love-letter to London. If I have not been in London for two years I simply must go there again.

I can't really say what attracts me most. Is it the large number of interesting buildings, the museums, the variety of theatres, fairs, shops?

Thank heavens that Piccadilly has not deteriorated to the level of the Champs Elysées, where fast-food restaurants and low-price shops prevail at every corner.

I hope that the marvellous public conveniences in the centre of London will not be converted into sterile computerized cubicles as in Paris.

And the people of London . . . one is still being greeted "Good morning", "Good afternoon" — this is a delight to hear.

Everyone seems to mind their own business in the Tube the eyes so fixed on the newspaper that it seems as if a heart attack would hardly be noticed. However, everyone seems to be instantly helpful if asked.

As I said before, I simply must go there. I have already booked for a few days' stay in May.

Sincerely,  
DORIS MEYER,  
Ellenbeinweg 35,  
2 Hamburg 65 (Wellingbüttel),  
West Germany,  
April 12.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.











# Misconstrued or misconceived?

John Russell Taylor considers the arguments for and against Conceptual Art, and looks at some exemplars which are now on exhibition in London

Britain has been notoriously slow in taking Conceptual Art to its heart — if, indeed, that is the appropriate place to take it. When the Eighties succeeded the Seventies, it seemed for a while as though the chance to do so had been permanently lost.

Art was clearly veering off in quite a different direction, going back to painting and sculpture more or less as they had been traditionally understood, and producing all sorts of new variations on such figurative approaches as Super-Realism and Expressionism. But this has also been the age of pluralism, and so no style or approach has been totally dismissed. The Young Turks of the Seventies have in some cases hung on to become Modern Classics, and as the Nineties begin the newcomers are quite as likely to be Neo-Conceptual as Neo-Expressionist.

At the moment several of the major public spaces in London are showing Conceptual artists, old and new. So, is there a greater acceptance of them now than there was in 1980? It depends, of course, on the assessment of whether the experiment of Conceptual Art — seeing how far the "doing" of art can be reduced, in favour of the "thinking" — could be said to have failed.

Certainly there is something to look at, something that has been made, in the Colin McCahon show at the ICA until May 27, the Christian Boltanski show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery until June 3, and the Allan McCollum show at the Serpentine Gallery until April 28. But in each case the concept clearly remains paramount. And in each case it has to be questioned whether that is quite enough. Boltanski (born 1944) is the most famous and long-lasting of these artists. He is French-Jewish, and makes much use of found materials, whether caches of photographs from school or criminal records, or the possessions of unknown persons or himself as a child, or old clothes collected at random.

At least Thurber's lady with the true Emily Dickinson spirit got fed up sometimes, and the man in *One Way Pendulum* who kept a skull on the mantelpiece as a *memento mori* constantly forgot. Boltanski, by contrast, has been singly and signally obsessed with death throughout his career, obsessed with the fact that people die, and also that moments of time and experiences are soon buried in oblivion.

It is interesting, in a way, that all the

children shown in "Lyce Chases" were in the same class of a Jewish high school in 1931. Once this is known, the observer may be moved by speculation on their possible fate in the Holocaust. It may be noted, sadly or ironically according to choice, that it is now completely impossible to disentangle from "Reserve — Detective II" which of the people pictured in *Detective* magazine were the villains and which the victims.

It may even be found intriguing that the only thing all the Swiss elsewhere depicted have in common is that they are dead. But there does remain a strong desire to ask "so what?"

Any emotion generated is the result of putting it into the same kind of literary context as the Victorians applied to the Academy's annual problem picture. I have noticed at various Boltanski shows that some spectators are ready to be deeply moved, but tend to confusion as to precisely which pieces deeply move them until they have read the labels and checked the background stories. How worrying is it to be moved by contemplating the Holocaust, and then to find that the cause of the emotion is a piece showing the members of the Mickey Mouse Club in 1955?

Conceptual Art constantly throws up such obstacles to knowing whether it is the art or the news story that is providing the emotional pull. (So, for that matter, does the Magnum photography show currently at the Hayward Gallery.) Visitors to the Serpentine Gallery or the McCahon part of the ICA show will find little comfort in this respect.

McCahon (1919-87) was a New Zealander who began as a painter but became increasingly preoccupied with words, letters and numbers. At first he painted them in subtle and sensitive ways, but then he moved increasingly towards treating the act of painting as the making of graffiti, or giving it up altogether in favour of writing gnomic messages on pieces of paper. The

## John Russell Taylor's recommendations from other shows

**PLASTIC EXPLOSION:** Bakelite, thou shouldst be living at this hour. And it is, preserved to lend colour to "The Plastic Age", a hymn to pre-post-modernism. Victoria & Albert Museum (01-938 8500) until April 29.

**NEWLYN BREEZES:** Most of the best of the opomatically named "English Impressionists" worked at some time around Newlyn, Cornwall. "A Breath of Fresh Air" gathers them together in all their lightness and charm. David Messum (01-408 4203) until May 5.

**ENGLISH GRAIN:** Douglas Percy Bliss was not



Hilarious invention: Jiri Kolar's "Déjeuner sur la vache", 1967, included in the show *The End of Words* at the ICA

London show is a selection from a major retrospective recently seen in Auckland — and, it seems, a rather perverse one.

The real paintings, such as "I and Thou" (1954-55), have mostly been eliminated to concentrate on the later, more frankly conceptual pieces. The contention is that a graffiti which reads "AM I Scared Boy (EH)" is intensely moving. As a human document it may be; but as a work of art?

Allan McCollum (born 1944) is a Californian who has recently been much hyped as part of the new New York return to abstraction. At the Serpentine he is

showing a room lined from floor to ceiling with blacked-in picture frames; a room almost filled with a table-top covered with identical moulded pieces of obscure original purpose, all coloured a blinding salmon pink (the same piece, to judge from the catalogue, is also available in pistachio). Then there is a room filled with large urn-like mouldings in different pastel shades.

Slightly more interesting is a room of photographic blow-ups. These are taken from small snaps of images on the television screen including works of art. The detail that is concentrated on is, of course, the art-work, reduced to abstraction by their successive miniaturization and enlargement.

At least the last piece embodies an idea of some sort, not so different from Tom Phillips's in reconstituting the collection of the Mappin Gallery, Sheffield, from a smudgy Edwardian postcard. McCollum has also shown the good taste to be fascinated by Hitchcock's misjudged *Marnie*. But otherwise, the longer the installations are considered, the less can be

seen in them. I cannot help feeling that new New York art must be in a pretty bad way if these specimens are among the best it can offer.

One redeeming feature of all this is that at the ICA, McCahon is coupled with Jiri Kolar. Kolar is a Czech, born in 1914, who comes straight out of the rich central European strain of Surrealism.

His work may look experimental now, but hardly more so than it would have done in the year of his birth, when the Dadaists were already preparing their anarchist revolution. But he uses all the Surrealist techniques of collage and object-finding with extravagant and often hilarious invention, and adds a few of his own, such as "crumpled", which involves crumpling and then selectively straightening an image to produce something dreamlike and weird.

The show is called "The End of Words", presumably to emphasize a connection with McCahon. But all it really shows, encouragingly, is that Surrealism is alive and well and living (since 1980) in Paris.

## Fudging the issues

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

SHEILA Hayman's nudging title for the 40 Minutes documentary on BBC 2 last night, "Killer Bimbos on Fleet Street", would have got a male television producer heavily fined in any court of chauvinism. The programme itself had all the coherence and credibility of an economics leader on a tabloid Page Three.

The idea was, presumably, to look at the influence of such female editors as Eve Pollard of the *Sunday Mirror* and Patsy Chapman of the *News of the World* on a traditionally male province of sex and scandal. The programme, however, went off in so many other directions, from nightclub interviews to a survey of newspapers' television commercials, that it was rather more difficult to locate the editorial line or theory than it would be to find a crossword in a nude magazine.

When the Press is being increasingly well covered by such programmes as Raymond Snoddy's *Hard News*, and the BBC 2 restoration of *What the Papers Say*, it was depressing to find that the 40 Minutes idea of a newspaper joke is still to photograph the breasts of an editor while she is talking about male stereotyping.

The best story was lost, somewhere in the middle of what looked like a series of advertisements for smutty weekends. It appears that the editor of the *News of the World*, Patsy Chapman, is the daughter of a housewife who once caught a local headmaster removing underwear from her washing line. All human life is there: rather as though the editor of the *Church Times* had once almost drowned in a font during baptism.

This surely should have been the theme to follow through in all its biographical and editorial complexity. But instead of that, after about another 15 seconds it was off into yet more aimless shots of shoulder-pads and long red fingernails.

As Chapman said, during the closing credits, "We don't have much of a conference here"; and it looks as though the BBC producer and reporter had even less than that. They have not, apparently, yet noticed that Fleet Street is no longer where the newspapers live.

**MARYA**  
by Isaac Babel  
Adapted by Christopher Hampton  
From a translation by Michael Glenny & Harold Shukman

"MARVELLOUS"  
The Times

"SUPERBLY STAGED...  
SPLENDIDLY PERFORMED"  
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"EXCELLENT PRODUCTION"  
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Irrepressible: Miriam Karlin with Paul Barber in *Not Fade Away*

## Saved by sour note

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Not Fade Away  
Stratford East

THIS is the kind of disarming comedy the Theatre Royal has made its own. It can be accused of sentimentality, calculated pathos, relentless right-mindedness, and nostalgia for the days when Cockneys were plucky folk, always ready to help the underdog. It can be said that Barrie Keeffe, its author, so fudges an unhappy ending that it can almost be seen as happy. Yet it would have to be a pretty hardline curmudgeon who altogether resisted his play.

Consider the story. The 79-year-old Grace Webb, once married to as humane a communist as the East End has seen, escapes from the old people's home in which her son, a smarmy suburbanite, long ago dumped her.

Back in Forest Gate, she finds the houses transformed into concrete slabs, the pubs packed with loveless yobs and venomous racists. She has only to step into the street to find a Rastafarian bleeding after an unprovoked assault.

But his pain is her opportunity. No sooner has she stuck a plaster on his head, and unwittingly shared a joint with him, than she is ensconced in his flat.

Indeed, she has become nanny to the children of his sister, who is the good-hearted prostitute in modern guise: in Angela Bruce's performance, elegant and unaffectedly caring, as if simulta-

neously appearing on the cover of *Vanity Fair* and running a Women's Help Centre.

"I've never been so happy," repeats Grace, by which point the audience should surely have been screaming in collective agony, so much sweeter had been injected into its mental teeth. Why were we not doing so? How had Keeffe got away with theatrical dentistry so shameless?

Partly because he never lets things drift for long without introducing a quirky line or amiably offbeat moment. There is fun to be had from the collision of his well-meaning lady Candide with West Indian culture; and Keeffe finds it. But the main reason for the evening's success, such as it is, is that irrepressible veteran, Miriam Karlin. If Grace is bearable, it is because of her muttony body-language, her battling, truculent manner.

Somewhat she provides acid enough to temper the sugar. One could call her performance a lemon, and mean it as a compliment. Yet neither she nor Philip Hedley's skilful direction can excuse a conclusion which at first is a reminder that Keeffe once was the author of *Sus, Barbarians*, and other exercises in gritty realism.

It would be wrong to reveal much more than that a blend of police and social workers wreck her friends' Utopia. Enough to say that loss is instantly forgotten, grief becomes defiance, and Karlin is gamely leading a chorus in Desmond Dekker's "You Can Get It If You Really Want".

Even by Stratford East standards, wasn't that going it a bit?

## One-man double act

Jeremy Kingston

The Guv'nor  
Young Vic Studio

ENGAGING and skilful, this one-man show presents Sir Henry Irving as he saw himself and as his valet, Walter Collinson, saw him. Both roles are played by Christopher Godwin, switching between the two, sometimes in mid-sentence and mid-step, starting the step with Irving's imperious stride and ending it in the aged Walter's shuffle. Or opening a reminiscence in the mild Cockney of an ex-wigmaker's assistant before surging into a credible rendering of the mighty Irving voice, that amazingly unnatural sound — though, as Walter says, "not natural but magical" — where we, the "audience", clearly hear the hypophyses in riv-u-let and hil-lock, and where the word "Christmas" is given four distinct syllables.

Irving died on the steps of a Bradford hotel in his loyal valet's arms. As the show's pretext we are asked to imagine ourselves looking into the attic of the house where Walter now lodges. There, once a year on the anniversary of the death, he rummages among mementoes and drinks a glass to his master's memory.

It is a simple and effective pretext: centrally placed are the trunks, pier-glass and other impediments of an actor's life. Godwin as Walter hobbles awkwardly between these, abandoning anecdotes halfway through as old costumes or photographs catch his attention. When he strays into the black border surrounding the attic, the midway space between the private life and his public, Godwin becomes Irving, ramrod-stiff as Tennyson's Beckett (dreadful poetry) or, features distorted,



Skilful: Christopher Godwin limbs stuck out like a starfish, as the guilty Mathias in *The Belts*.

How authentic the movements are is hard to say, though mimics abounded long survived him and must have preserved the essence of the man's sensational style. Godwin's Irving's Wolsey's farewell speech succeeds in being genuinely touching, and his frantic cry as Mathias pushes the Jew's corpse into the lime kiln manages as no other I have heard to make the hairs on the neck twitch.

For Walter's character, drawing on his own imagination, Godwin has created a decent, Clive Dunnish old coddler, his talk flavoured with Edwardian slang, and gives him a development within the play. It seems only right that Irving's valet would know he sweated twice as much as normal when playing Macbeth. If Peter Caze's able direction can cut the noise of the console switch starting the sound cues, the illusion of a glimpse into our theatrical past will be even more persuasive.

"An evening in the company of this most civil of men sends you home thinking not so much what a laugh, but what a life."  
Independent

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Fudging the issues

## Poetic, but harrowing

ROCK ALBUMS  
David Sinclair

Suzanne Vega: Days of Open Hand (A&M 395 283-1)

SUZANNE Vega is one of those strange types who look different every time they are photographed or filmed. Her songs have a similarly amorphic quality, their surfaces giving the chill appearance of porcelain that can be matt or shiny, and then turned to catch the light in various different ways. The result in *Days of Open Hand* is a peculiar resonance to melodies and mood, although there is a bleakness at its core. The imagery is poetic but frequently grim. "Men in a War" is pegged to a jolly metaphor hinged on the phenomenon of amputees who still "feel" their lost limbs as before. In "Fifty-Fifty Chance" the narrator goes to the hospital bedside of a loved one who has attempted suicide.

Dreams are a recurring inspiration from the benign imaginings of "Book of Dreams" to the awful nightmare visions of a child who is "Tired of Sleeping". The band provides a functional, uncluttered musical backdrop, enlivening the sprightly "Roses of the Street" and lending a soft tug to "Predictions", but generally clearing the way for Vega's crystalline voice.

Despite some of the outward signals, *Days of Open Hand* is a lucid, often harrowing account, that makes far from easy listening.

Urban Dance Squad: Mental Floss for the Globe (Ariola 410 325)

The most exciting release of the week comes courtesy of Amsterdam's Urban Dance Squad, an extraordinary mixed-race, Dutch, rock hip-hop collective. What they have in common with other bizarre acts, from Fishbone to Mano Negra, is a love of heavy guitar noise, a supermanic energy level and a cock-eyed approach that integrates traditional rock band skills with the modern techniques of turntable scratching and sampling. At one extreme, "Prayer for My Demo" is buoyed up by a wash of Jimi Hendrix quotes (mostly from *Axe: Bold as Love*); at the other, "No Kid" grooves easily to some authentically bluesy slide licks. There is a smouldering reggae complexion to "Land of Hope and Glory" slung out with an end-of-the-world party noise raging over a bass cranked to overkill.

If there is a fault, it is that the album sounds as if it has been created in the studio by a smart

but faceless production team, whereas the five-piece band is a thriving flesh and blood concern.

Inspirational Carpenters: Life (Cow DUNG 8)

With their colourless vocals, quaint Sixties organ, clunky bass, deeply conventional pop melodies, studiously daft name, psychedelic artwork, recycled hippie look and impeccable Mancunian origins, Inspirational Carpenters are a somewhat crass embodiment of Nineties hip. While not without its charms, their debut album, which houses the hit "This is How it Feels", merely sounds like the Stranglers without the beef.

That Petrol Emotion: Chemi-crazy (Virgin CDV 2618)

That Petrol Emotion have never recaptured the woodruff coiled-spring attack of their debut, *Manic Pop Thrill*, released four years ago this month. Now on to their fourth album, and presumably anxious to turn a profit at some point in their career, emphasis is placed on the "pop" part of the formula at the expense of the manic thrills.

Unfortunately, they have failed to evolve a very distinctive sound, and drummer Ciaran McLaughlin, who has written the bulk of this album, does not have a particularly sharp ear for a tune. The dual guitars of Reamonn O'Gorman and Damien O'Neill are generally kept in check behind Steve Mack's regular Joe vocals. Scott Litt's production is crisp and straightforward, but he hasn't been given the material with which to fashion anything comparable to R.E.M. work. The album's ecological theme is crudely illustrated by a cover that is truly the height of naivety.

Michelle: Michelle (Ruthless 7567-91282-2)

Michelle is a 19-year-old prodigy from Los Angeles who, although signed to Ruthless Records, the city's home of heavy rap, has assembled a debut that is a tasteful amalgam of soul ballads and razor-sharp pop-funk. This is all the more surprising when you consider that it was produced by the notorious Dr Dre of Niggas With Attitude fame. In the wake of her American hit, "No More Lies", she has been compared to Anita Baker and Millie Jackson, and certainly demonstrates that sort of range in the soaring cadences of "Something in the Heart" or an outlandishly over-the-top duet with Michael Holmes, "117". However, when she gets cracking on the squelchy, bass-driven dancefloor funk, she sounds convincingly like the young Michael Jackson.

They may be comics but, as Johnny Black reports, they can be worth serious money

## The Cash Street Kids

A clumsily drawn copy of *Detective Comics* No 27, on poor quality pulp paper, was recently sold to a New York collector for £63,975. "It sat untouched on a bookshelf for 50 years and was in mint condition," says Duncan McAlpine, author of *The Official Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain*. "My own copy, not quite perfect, is only worth £25,000."

On publication in 1939, *Detective Comics* No 27 sold for 10 cents as part of a run of 600,000. Now, only 16 copies are believed to exist. Their value for connoisseurs lies in the fact that they feature the first appearance of a costumed crime-fighter who ranks among the best-known creations of 20th-century fiction, The Batman.

McAlpine stumbled into comic collecting as a child, because his mother, an antique dealer, gave him them as distractions while she scoured salerooms for antique clocks and furniture. "I hung onto them and eventually amassed a collection of 30,000, the largest in Europe, much to her disgust."

In 1971, aged 12, he saved up £25 to purchase a first issue of *Fantastic Four*, published barely 10 years earlier, yet already rising in value. Recently, a number of events have sent prices rocketing: the Dow Jones investment table shows comics as the fifth best investment over the last five years, after precious metals, gems, fine arts and furniture.

"Superhero comics started appearing in the mid-Thirties, points out McAlpine, "so their fifty-fifth anniversary came up in the mid-Eighties, making them vintage items. Bankers and stockbrokers from outside the comics field began pouring money in, which started the price spiral."

Around the same time, Batman was undergoing a startling renaissance in the hands of British comic artist Alan Moore. He turned Batman into an ageing, malevolent and twisted vigilante in a future Earth peopled by mutant criminals. Moore's book-length comic, *The Dark Knight Returns*, sold over a million copies and spent 38 weeks on the *New York Times* best-selling books list.



Duncan McAlpine with his almost-perfect copy of *Detective Comics* No 27, worth about £25,000

Batman was a major factor in the decision to make last year's film version. Its success sent Batman back-issue prices soaring by 150 per cent, and American comics in general were carried along with it. Fayer's Financial Services, one of several companies which raises cash for the purpose of comic collecting, quotes price rises over the last year of 200 per cent for *Spider-Man* No 1, 192 per cent for *Amazing Fantasy* No 15 (Spider-Man's

first appearance) and 152 per cent for *Fantastic Four* No 1.

The more valuable items from McAlpine's collection, valued at £300,000, are in a bank vault, which he visits regularly. "I open the boxes to let air circulate around them, which stops the ink running," his *Comic Book Price Guide* mainly covers American comics because they attract the biggest money, but his British section lists *The Beano* No 1 at

£1,000. Even *Viz* comic's first edition can fetch £300.

Stateside Comics, McAlpine's mail order back-issue business, started only a year ago, and showed a half-year turnover of £250,000. With *Batman 2* on the way, it is likely that comic prices will continue to rise.

● *The Official Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain* (Price Guide Productions, £6.95), is published tomorrow.

## A variable piquancy

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

BBCSO/Salonen  
Festival Hall

HERE was a piquant programme of three Italian symphonies: Mendelssohn of course; Berlioz's with Child Harold visiting the place on solo viola; and Niccolò Castiglioni's "Sinfonia con giardino" of 1977-8.

Now in his late fifties, Castiglioni has had few performances here, and those few only of smaller works. Wednesday night's piece, even though coming with its garden, was all over within eight minutes of typical ticking fascination, growing out, but not far out, from the high treble of harpsichord, piccolo, piano, tuned percussion and violin harmonics. The aim is slight, the achievement not altogether prepossessing, in that little care seems to have gone into problems of instrumental balance.

The Mendelssohn performance that followed was dull, and unbalanced, even by imaginative solo instrumental contributions, but the Berlioz in the second half blazed: nothing could more strikingly have illustrated Esa-Pekka Salonen's variability as a conductor, a variability which perhaps came from being too quick to expand his repertoire.

His generally fast tempi in the first two movements of *Harold en Italie* were accompanied by great warmth and breadth, especially at the opening movement's slow introduction and in the smiling string tone of the slow movement. In both these movements the soloist, Nils-Erik Sparf, entered at a notably slower pace, and was concerned to ponder with a veiled caution (the hesitant manner persisted even through some ill-judged vibrato in the finale).

But after the half-way point the work belongs essentially to the orchestra, and the soloist seems increasingly to become an embarrassment to the composer: in the finale the viola is only there for mementoes of what went before. That displacement suited Salonen. The beguile, imitation of the Abruzzi mountain scene was realized with entrancing neatness, and this whole movement glowed with fresh colour, while the concluding orgy, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra's strong brass section again to the fore, was thrillingly vital and exact.

## WEEKEND GUIDE

Compiled by David Sinclair  
David Toop and Rose Roise

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Formerly known as the Blues Reunion, this now more aptly named combination of faded heroes incorporates keyboard player Zoot Money (ex-Big Roll Band leader), Chris Farlow ("Out of Time" vocalist), Tony Ashton (ex-Ashton, Gardner & Dyke keyboardist), Pete York (ex-Spencer Davis Group drummer), Miller Anderson (ex-Keef Hartley Band guitarist) and Boz Burrell (ex-Bad Company bassist).

Guidhall Quayside, Newcastle (091 2327079) today, 7pm, £8.50. JB's King Street, Dudley (0384 233597) Sat, 8pm, £5.

Corn Exchange Wheeler Street, Cambridge (0223 357851) Sun, 7.30pm, £5.50.

Civic Centre Market Sq, Aylesbury (0296 88008) Mon, 8pm, £5.50.

FINI TRIBE: Radical Scottish dance combo with a peculiar grudge against the McDonald's restaurant

chain. Currently touting a scratchy single, "Monster in the House".

Pelican Club Hotel Metro, Market Street, Aberdeen (0224 583275) today, 10pm, £1.50-£2.50.

Dingwalls Camden Lock, London NW1 (01-267 4967) Mon, 8pm, £4.

THE MIKE WESTBROOK BAND: Performing *Off Abbey Road*, his tribute to the music of the Beatles, jazz pianist Westbrook leads with vocalists Kate Westbrook and Phil Minton and the breathtaking guitarist Brian Gooding.

Bonington Theatre Arnold Leisure Centre, High Street, Arnold, Nottingham (0602 419741) today, 8pm, £4.50.

Manchester Arts Centre Manchester Road, Burnley (0282 30055) Sun, 8pm, £5.

EDDIE LEJEUNE AND D.I. MENARD: Sometimes mournful, sometimes sweet, you can bet your last crawfish head, they'll be belting out those Cajun tunes.

Watermans Art Centre 40 High Street, Stratford (01-568 1176) today, 10.30pm, £5.95.

BRADFORD: More polite, guitar-strumming songs from another indie band on the way up.

Powerrhaus Pied Bull, 1 Liverpool Road, London N1 (01-837 3218) today, 8pm, £5.

OSCAR D'LEONE: Venezuelan vocalist and double bass player who is a top star of salsa.

Empire Ballroom Leicester Square, London W1 (01-437 1446) Sun, 7.30pm, £8.50.

ALI FARKA TOURE: Singer and guitarist from Mali who has added to an already bluesy African style with influences from American soul and blues.

Ronnie Scott's Club Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747) Sun, 8pm, £7.50.

ADEVA: The latest Grace Jones clone. A powerful voice and strong image have lifted this New Jersey ex-school teacher out of the garage house scene and into Britain's pop charts.

Bruton Academy Stockwell Road, London SW9 (01-326 1022) Sun, 7.30pm, £8.50.

St David's Hall The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236) Mon, 7.30pm, £7.50.

## Mildly amusing and mysterious

DANCE

John Percival

LCDT

The Place

THIS week's programme of new works by London Contemporary Dance Theatre introduces an American choreographer of some interest. JoAnn Frawley-Jensen used to dance in Max Waggoner's company, and something of his startlingly unfettered use of movement has carried over into her choreography.

Her piece, *Noon Talk on Millenth Street*, presents jittery people living in the shadow of skyscrapers. It is developed under the inspiration of a string quartet by Scott Johnson: distinctive

music with a strong pulse and alarming undertones.

In the first movement, the eight dancers are shown as alarmed individuals. Eventually they coalesce into a group staring anxiously about and pulling faces. One woman manages with a struggle to pull others from the mass; from this, relationships begin to develop.

The finale brings an accumulation of quick jumping up and down, during which the group gradually coheres. Presumably the choreographer can identify in this pattern several literary influences mentioned in advanced publicity. I could not, but found the movement, the music and the relationships sufficient to hold interest.

Aletta Collins, using Steve Reich's hysterically distorted jumble of sound *It's Gonna Rain* for accompaniment and title, shows

people walking, running or falling in and out of coloured doors in Tom Cains's big framework. It is mildly amusing and occasionally mysterious, but at 25 minutes outstays its welcome. At one point, the limp assumed by one dancer begins to develop into an original dance when imitated by the rest. Nothing grows from it, however, and we are back to clichéd minimalist movement: hand gestures and rolling shoulders.

Kim Brandstrup's perfunctory danced version of the famous Yiddish play, *The Dybbuk*, completely misses the point of the plot: possession of one soul by another. To show a girl actually behaving like her dead lover would be difficult but interesting; to have him return physically and manipulate her is quite another thing.

BILL COOPER



Paul Liburd in *Noon Talk on Millenth Street*

## Magpies of music

David Toop explains the legal and aesthetic problems of musical plagiarism

Fakes have become a central feature of modern living. Tourists visiting Hong Kong can buy fake luggage, socks, perfume and Cartier watches. On their return, however, they may discover that the credit card with which they purchased fake antiques has itself been faked and used to buy thousands of pounds worth of goods in their name. Suddenly, the idea of fakes becomes less attractive.

Music has not escaped this epidemic of illicit imitation and theft. Some of the biggest selling pop singles of last year contained elements of fakery. The Italian record-makers known as Black Box made extensive use of the voice of American soul singer Loleatta Holloway, while the Doncaster group Jive Bunny montaged segments of past hits into one hit single after another. (Both groups had to pay copyright-holders substantial sums.)

Rap and dance music have received copious publicity for their creative use of digital sampling - using identifiable fragments of rhythm tracks, speech samples, snippets of a *cappella* vocals or bursts of noise from old records - but there are also composers operating on the margins of rock who are also using "theft" to construct their music.

John Oswald, a Canadian musician, has pushed the concept to extremes and has, in consequence, incurred the wrath of a nervously protective record industry. Last year, Oswald released a compact disc entitled *Plunderphonics*, which was unusual in all respects. It contained 24 tracks, all of them attributed to fake artists - among them the Beatles, Dolly Parton, Igor Stravinsky and Count Basie. The cover showed Michael Jack-

son's head, grafted onto the body of a semi-naked white woman.

As if this were not sufficient to cause offence, the music was assembled entirely from recordings by these artists. "Dab", as the title suggests, dissected Michael Jackson's "Bad" and reconstructed it as a stuttering, lurching parody of the original track. "White" slurled and smeared Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" until its benign mood turned to nightmare. "Seventh" neatly updated Beethoven's Symphony No 7 into a piece of modern minimalism, and "Rainbow" transformed a performance of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by the 101 Strings Orchestra into an oceanic deluge of sentiment, inspired perhaps by Gustav Mahler, Toru Takemitsu and the entire Romantic tradition.

The methods of transformation ranged from simple to highly complex, but they were consistently brilliant in the way they recomposed the listener's perception of familiar music.

Michael Jackson was not amused. His office exerted pressure upon Brian Robertson, the president of the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA), which put pressure on Oswald.

*Plunderphonics* has never been offered for sale, either by mail order or in shops. Oswald's policy of free distribution was intended to confront the issue of intellectual copyright, but faced with a possible court action, he was understandably unwilling to offer himself as a sacrificial victim. All remaining copies of the disc were surrendered to the CRIA, which duly crushed them.

The irony, as always in these cases, is that the disc has become a prized cult item. It topped the playlist of Canadian college radio stations, and some record companies are now keen to release Oswald's new work in the field of creative plunder. First, they have to untangle the complex legal and philosophical problems of copyright. In our age of fakes, that is increasingly difficult.

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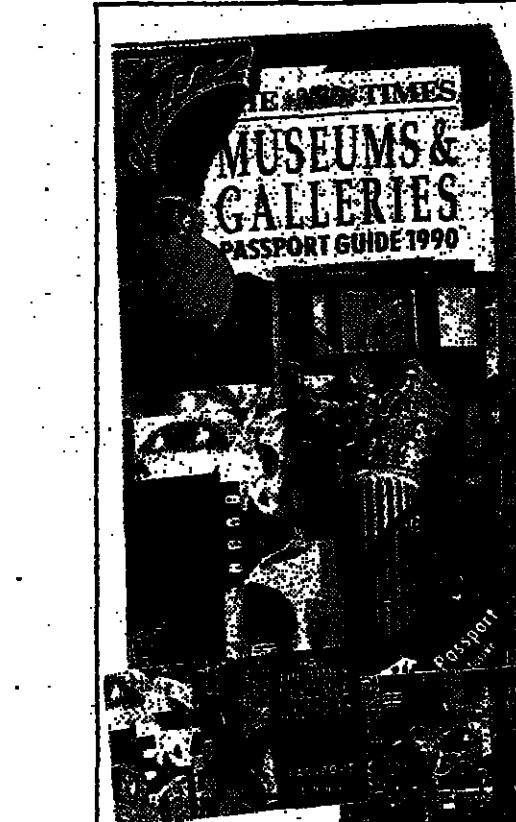
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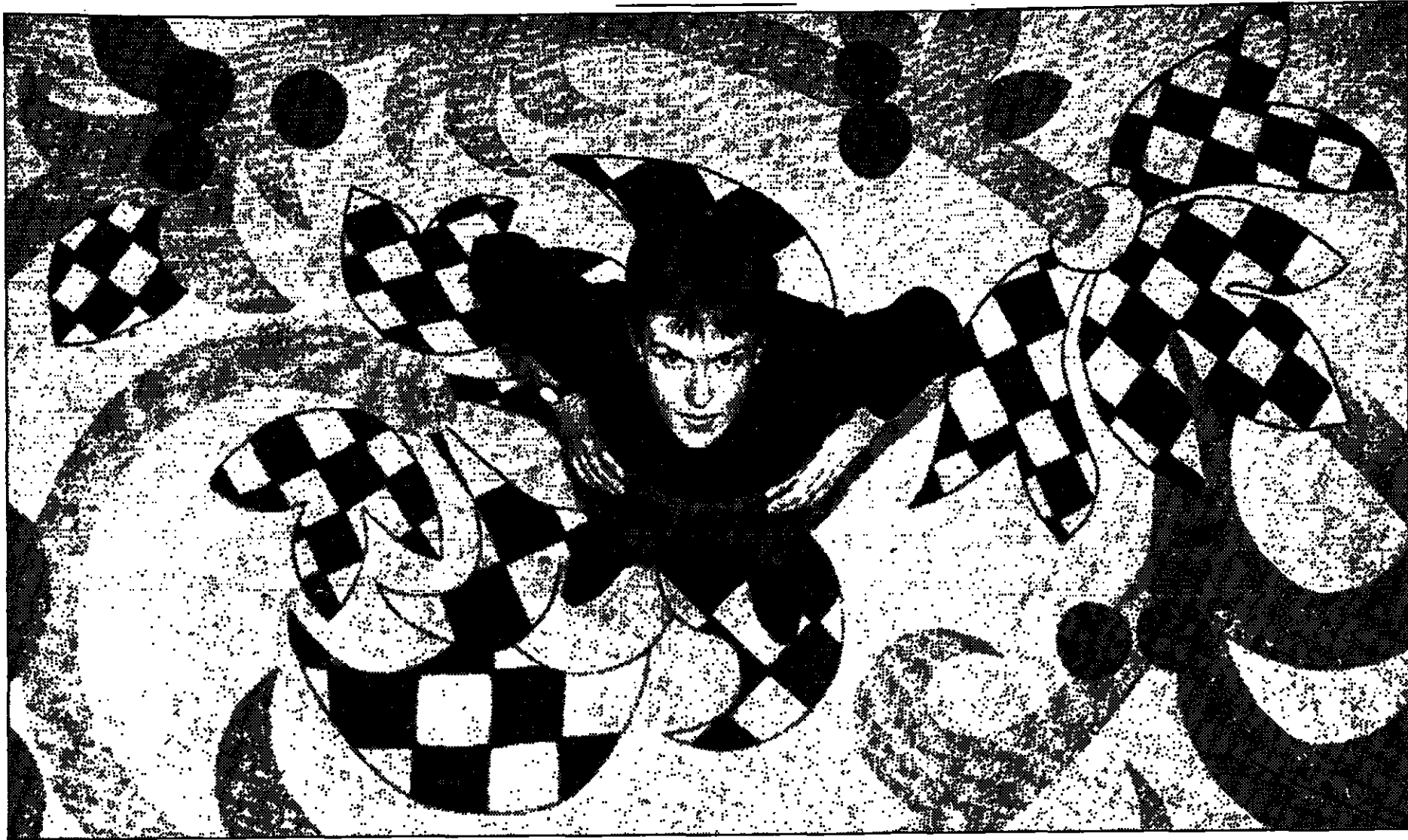
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## INTERIORS



Pattern of the future: lino artist Jennie Moncur, with her floor at London's Institute of Contemporary Arts... "I can produce the images without compromising my designs"

## Lino climbs up off the floor

**L**ino: How was it for you? Cold and smelly, cracked and curling, redolent of schools, hospitals and boarding houses? Lino was the favoured floorcovering of parsimonious bursars and rapacious landlords. Lino was knelt upon by the chilled, bruised knees of little boys and girls. Lino was buffed 'til it gleamed and the same little boys and girls slipped and sprained their ankles when they broke the rules and ran.

So why has Britain's last remaining linoleum manufacturer decided to launch its first domestic range for 20 years next Monday? Because, says Mandy Morrison from *House Beautiful*, lino now has "street cred". Because, says Israel Watson, an interior designer, lino is "really, really Fifties, hence it's style today. And it's really trendy if it's got sea shells on."

The Victorians kept lino behind the green baize door, where it was laid to keep "downstairs" hygienic and healthy. Without cleanliness you, your family and your pets might die. "When Prince Albert died in 1853," explained David Prout, architectural adviser for The Victorian Society, "the rumour spread that he had died from smells."

If Queen Victoria had laid more lino, maybe he would have survived.

Mrs J.E. Pantou, the author of *From Kitchen to Garret*, was the housewife's mentor. "Mrs Pantou told them to be very firm and to have lots of lino otherwise their servants would rebel, their roast beef would be overcooked and their husbands grumpy," Mr Prout says. During the first half of this century the good news spread like wildfire throughout Britain and America. There was no better floor covering upon which to drop your ma's Yorkshire pud or your mom's apple pie. Lino looked as if it was here to stay.

It wasn't. Production peaked in the years between 1948 and 1959. In the words of Coco Chanel, "fashion is made to be unfashionable": the tufted carpet was born and lino died. "Fitted carpets were brought into the realm of the less affluent and with them came a change of fashion," explains Roger Strugnell, spokesman for Forbo-Nairn, the company which is relaunching lino. Polishing lino, in the post-servant age, gave us bad backs.

The trend-setting purchasers of floor covering laughed out loud at lino. How could they? They with

### Nicola Murphy takes a shine to an old favourite

their vinyl tiles designed to let elephants and Magnus Pyke make big messes in adverts, they with their striped pine floors and their Amtico for the Filipino staff to glide over. Lino waited, biding its time in the playrooms. Now, in the Nineties, the Fifties are back — "there's never a new fashion but it's old," said Chaucer.

But the fact that lino has rolled back out of the ping-pong room, can not be due simply to Fifties nostalgia. Not all of us have climbed into our 2001 suits. There is another explanation. The biggest fashion trend at the moment is green.

Lino is made from — what greenspeak describes as self-generating raw materials — linseed oil, cork, wood flour from soft woods, resins and jute. The cork is waste from the wine industry in Portugal — which means that we can drink more, secure in the knowledge we're helping make more lino, and saving the world. "It is a product of the age,

and it is biodegradable," says Mr Strugnell, who has been in the business for 42 years.

In fact, lino is so green it even keeps itself clean. The linseed oil continues to oxidize even when the lino is laid and, according to Mr Strugnell, it kills germs. Forbo-Nairn's own research indicates that while each square metre of supposedly well maintained carpet contains 1000 grammes of dirt consisting of animal skin, human skin and carpet mites, lino only has three grammes. Muscle-bound housewives used to take out their frustrations by beating carpets on the days they weren't thrashing their offspring; now they have Callenetics and psychotherapy, air-conditioning and, as a result, dirty carpets.

So come back that linseed smell, the scent that once dominated Kirkcaldy, the linoleum capital of the world. This was the smell that in 1913 inspired one Mrs George Smith, the daughter of a minister in Ayrshire, to pen: "for I ken mase by the queer-like smell/That the next stop's Kirkcaldy". The Kirkcaldy company was founded by Michael Nairn in 1847. More than a century later, it merged with another famous lino manufacturer, William-

sons, of Lancaster, and became Forbo-Nairn in 1985. The locals still believe linseed is the healthiest smell in the world and that it prevents colds. They wouldn't recognize Kirkcaldy without its smell. They would get off the train in Dumfries.

Forbo-Nairn has invested £2.5 million in preparation for the launch next week. So it must be expecting good returns. At £20 a sq m, lino is not cheap. Has the company, as a cynical member of Friends of the Earth suspects, simply seen an opening in today's green market for a product which, unlike vinyl, is not based on petrochemicals? Karen Christensen, author of *Home Ecology*, published by Arlington Books, thinks not. "There's been so much hand-wagging going on that when someone has a really useful product it's now in danger of being overlooked. Lino has always been in stock at some stores."

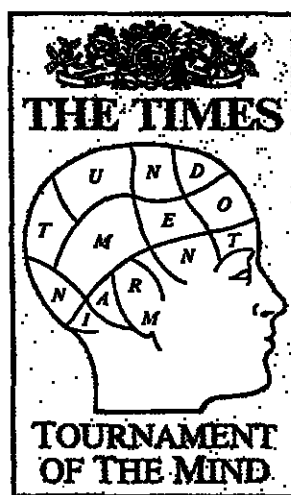
But lino will never really be the same again. It is no longer slippery, it is not going to curl up at the corners; outside institutions it probably won't smell of disinfectant and it certainly won't always be the colour of brown Windsor soup.

## All the Tournament finalists

- Congratulations to those who have persevered through pages of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and crossed intellectual swords with thousands of others in *The Times* Tournament of the Mind 1990.
- Mensa has finished marking the entries and has announced the following list of finalists. There are 110 individual finalists this year because of the high standard of entries and the number of people who achieved maximum points.
- These people, along with the top 10 schools, will be competing in the five-round final to begin next Tuesday. All will be sent special certificates recognizing their efforts. The top 10 individual finalists, or all who score the maximum points, will take part in a special timed play-off in London on May 14. They will be playing for £5,000 and a trophy based on Rodin's *The Thinker*.
- The winning school will be decided from the five-round final. The top team will win a Hewlett Packard computer for its school and a commemorative plaque and certificate.

### INDIVIDUAL FINALISTS:

Keith Hayden, 8 Hamilton Gardens, Hastings, East Sussex; Alan Clements, 10 Brackendale, Hastings, East Sussex; A. Hayes, 7 Westbury Road, Ealing, London, W5; Chris Duffin, 45 The Street, Broughton, Faversham, Kent; Gerd Ellesmore, 27 Coronation Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex; Belinda Bridges, 47 Belzize Park Gardens, London, NW3; Alan Martin, 72 Oxford Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk; Michael Hasan, 191 Kenmore Avenue, Ketter, Northants; J. Gill, 3 The Spinnaker, South Woodham Ferrers, Chelmsford, Essex; B.A. Jones, 6 Spedding Way, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent; Michael J. Richards, 80 Wakefield Road, Clayton, West, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire; Derek Collins, 14 The Ridgeway, Acton, London, W8; Richard Harvey, 1 Shelly Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes; Bucks; James S. Steale, 8 Chantry Avenue, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire; D. Bagshaw, 6 Dunbar Cres. Southport; R.H. Blackburn, 16 Manor House Estate, Stanmore, Middlesex; Scott Rogers, 34 Ashbourne Road, Streteford, Manchester; C.M. Thomson, Wilberby Villa, Walsby, Conington, Cambridgeshire; J.W.A. Tarn, 10 Park Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey; J.M. Ford, 242 Long Readings Lane, Slough, Berks; Colin Robertson, 41 Irvine Crescent, St Andrews, Fife; D.J. Loosemore, 25 Morford Way, Eastcote, Rutshire; J. Gill, 9 Ridley Road, Warrington, Surrey; Julie Meek, 60 Grange Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight; D. Riley, Coombe Croft, School Road, Kevedon Hatch, Brentwood, Essex; Mark Birch, 35 Redgate, Farnby, Merseyside;



Anthony Ball, 75 Banner Cross Road, Sheffield; D.W. McNeill, 48 Hollymount, Finaghy, Belfast; Angela Buckley, 3 Valley Terrace, Leeds; Barbara Buckley, 11 Oak Crescent, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; W.N.E. Thomas, 60 Elms Farm Road, Elm Park, Essex; E. Dickinson, 41 Nourmberland Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex; Angus Douglas, 70 South Park Road, London SW19; Simon Parker, 3 Oak Close, Southgate, London N14; Colin Parkes, 104 Old Carrick Road, Green Island; D.G. Ellesmore, The Orchard, New Road, Saffron Waldron, Essex; Katerina Rogers, 113 Tipping Lane, Woodley Reading; Colin Stringer, 30 New Close, Knebworth, C.A. Harbard, 2 West Street, St Neots, Cambridgeshire; Rachel A. Charron, 15 Bray Brooke Gardens, Upper Norwood, London SE19; Terence Brown, 8 Ainsworth Road, Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire; Walter Hall, 15 Magwith Close, Chelmsford, Essex; Alan Cooke, 47 Hyde Way, Wickford, Essex; D.S. Noble, 83 Preston Drive, Bexley Heath, London; Andrew Johnston, 9 Holmesville Avenue, Congleton, Cheshire; Matthew Barr, Heyford Hill House, Heyford Hill Lane, Littlemore, Oxford; Angus Sinclair, 20 Franklyn Gardens, Edgeware, London; James Alliman, 47 Coombe Gardens, New Malden, Surrey; Baneki Grzegorz, 10 Watson Crescent, Edinburgh; John Coleman, 258 Wendling, Southampton Road, London, NW5; Nick Beeson, 57 Normandy Road, St Albans, Herts; R.J. Winter, 1703 Stapleton Hall Road, Stroud Green, London N4; David Cullen, 14 Garner Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire; John Winter, Wallace House, Blencroft, Carlisle;

Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent; D.A. Reid, 2 Meadow, Hounslow, West Sussex; Kolya Abramov, 13 Vanburgh Road, London, W4; Gordon Vince, 8 Birchwood Drive, Lightwater, Surrey; S. Hawthorn, 41 Knightbridge Walk, Bournemouth; Alan Garrett, Maple Cottage, Dark Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington; Les Teare, 20 Fairbourne Avenue, Alderley Edge, Cheshire; John Wagstaff, 140 Knights Hill, West Norwood, London SE27; Dr David Webster, 20 Limes Road, Hartwick, Cambridge; Brian Lewis, 27 Homefield Road, Dagenham, London W6; James, 22 The Orchards, Cross Gates, Leeds; P.E. Richardson, 49 Fir Avenue, Wallingford; Jonathan Culley, Custard Cottage, Halfway Bridge, Ludlow, Shropshire; West Sussex; A.J. Sobey, 15 Kingswood Firs, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey; Aaron Hillman, 21 Norfolk Road, Wokingham, Wokingham, Hampshire; Terence I. Rose, 17 Beeching Drive, Lowestoft, Suffolk; Nicholas Coral, 10 Warwick Place, London W9; A.S. Kerry, 1 The Hockthorn, Lincoln; Christopher Todd, High Stile, Fordwater Road, West Sussex; Erik Dawid, 4 Allerton Grove, Leeds; D.C. Wright, 23 Collins Road, Eastney, Southsea, Hants; C.F. Palmer, 1 Shrubbery Grove, Royston, Herts; S. Jones, 5 Chillingworth, 5 Wulfuna Gardens, Finchfield, Wolverhampton; M.S.M. Thompson, 1 Kinnoull Terrace, Perth; Shaun de Lacy, 28 Talbot Avenue, Oxhey, Watford; Mr R.L. Walsh, 148 Homefield Road, Wimbeldon, London SW19; B.A. Rogers, 67 Humphrey Lane, Urmston, Manchester; Diana Giles, 37 Maryside, Langley, Slough; Kenneth Laing, 67 Belton Grove, Grantham, Lincs.

J.R. Whitmarsh, 247 Loose Road, Maidstone, Kent; Malcolm Gilling, 9 Danesbury Court, Epsom, Surrey; Stanley Owen, 9 Gell Rdwy Road, Garndiffaith, Pontypool, Gwent; F. Beady, 49 Northgate Street, Colchester, Essex; D.J. Smith, 60 Barkling Road, Dagenham Road, Romford, Essex; Peter Sizer, 50 Barnaby Ridge, Chelmsford, Essex; Vernon Roberts, 18 Harve Road, Maidenhead, Berks; A.P. Chakrabarti, 36 Osborne Road, Hornchurch, Essex; Joyce Burrell, The Limes, Downfield, Stroud, Gloucestershire; Mrs P. Sizer, 50 Barnaby Ridge, Chelmsford, Essex; Mrs M. Clark, 21 Hyland Way, Hornchurch, Essex; Patrick Dunphy, 73 Adelaide Grove, Shepherds Bush, London; Gareth Bushill, 445 Manchester Road, London, Northwich, Cheshire; Angus Walker, 4 Quena Alexandra Mansions, Judd Street, London WC1; Duncan Steele, 15 Denzil Avenue, Hillingdon, London; J.M. Hooley, Sandy Stead, Well Lane, Peshbury, Cheshire; Ian Rosenbloom, 13 Mavis Lane, Cookridge, Leeds; Damien Hassan, 82 Bollo Bridge Road, London W3; Mr G.A. Latham, Watcotts, St Mary's Street, Wallingford; Rik Wickison, 30 Bowell Drive, High Lane Stockport; James Murray, 40 Crossing Road, Witham, Essex; Toby Maclean, 45 Amerland Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18; Stephen Jones, 3 Reigate Road, New Basford, Nottingham; Mrs E. Rix, 11 Mardale Avenue, Dunstable, Beds; Andrew Owen, 9 Gell Rdwy Road, Garndiffaith, Pontypool, Gwent; Mrs G.M. Gilbert, 40 Hoppingwood Avenue, New Malden, Surrey; R.M. Barr, Hill House, Windmill Hill, Breckley, Kent; M.N. Arnold, 198 Prating

### THE GOOD FLOOR GUIDE

Linoleum costs vary, depending on the preparation of the sub-floor and any special effects for example borders in contrasting colours, inlays and unusual designs. Creative effects are the specialty of the stockist First Floor Limited, of London, which has its own cutting facilities to make patterns, and offers inset stripping to create borders. First Floor stocks the Forbo-Krommle Marmoleum range of sheet lino, comprising 36 colours in three thicknesses, made by Forbo-Nairn's parent company in The Netherlands. First Floor also offers the Forbo-Nairn Armouflex range in 23 colours, along with DLW's imported Marmorette range of sheet lino. All these come in a marble effect and plain. The company also stocks two ranges of lino tiles — Linolex, in 15 colours and Armouflex, in 16 colours. Anyone looking for a really eye-catching effect might contact Jennie Moncur, a graduate of the Royal College of Art. Ms Moncur, who has designed flooring for London's Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Curatorial branch of Whiteleys, the fashion chain, also undertakes domestic commissions, such as the snooker room she covered in oak leaf designs for Janet Street-Porter.

Using Forbo-Nairn's linoleum, her decorative abstracts comprise big, bold, fluid shapes designed to fit specific locations. There are few products on the market you can shape," she says. "Using lino means I can produce the images I want without compromising my designs."

**Why choose lino?** Linoleum continues to mature after it is laid, so a 10-year-old floor will be as durable as a new one.

- Strong sunlight will not fade or harm the material.
- Seams can be welded to produce a jointless finish.
- Modern lino is easy to clean, requiring the same polishes as other resilient floor coverings.
- Burning cigarettes, when dropped or stubbed out, do not permanently scar lino. Any shallow scars or tar marks can be removed.
- Lino can be used on internally heated floors to 80°F.

**Caring for lino**

- Clean when necessary and at least once weekly.
- Vacuum (not beater-bar type) or brush with a soft broom to remove surface dirt. Then clean with a solution of neutral detergent such as washing-up liquid. Add only

## Short notes on Canada

Vanity sent me off to Canada this week. A letter arrived on heavy buff stationery informing me that I had won an award that would be presented in Toronto and I jumped. The award was for "Women Who Make a Difference" and I was selected for the media category. I suppose that's marginally better than being selected a woman who makes no difference. When I arrived in Toronto a motley group of people turned up at my hotel room with cameras and lights to make "your video". The interviewer had a sheet of paper with 12 questions. The first question was: "Why do you write?"

I rather liked that because it gave me a chance to cannibalize George Orwell's thoughts from his essay, "Why I Write". As I recall, he said that whenever his writing lacked a political purpose, it was full of humbug. Just as I was getting into the swing of this, the producer of "my" video explained that the total airtime for the 12 questions was 40 seconds, so could I be brief?

In spite of this rather unnerving start, my short visit to Canada has been useful. Life in Canada is akin to living in a genteel lunatic asylum, run by the nice inmates. The Canadian deficit per capita is nearly the largest in the western world, though the country's defence budget is lower per capita than that of Liechtenstein. Its citizens are taxed at every turn, and wander the streets asking where the money goes.

The answer may be glimpsed in reports such as that of the Ontario government's Waste Policy Adviser, who sadly told a meeting this week of the Ontario government's Recycling Advisory Committee that Canadian citizens had failed to heed its advice. Despite a three and a half year programme, backed by quotas, fines and monitoring committees, Canadians still choose to drink their Coca-Cola from recyclable tin cans, rather than the government-blessed refillable glass bottles.

Canada's Progressive Conservative Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, currently commands about 17 per cent of the electorate's support, which could make one sanguine about Mrs Thatcher's current position. But Canadian politics are extremely volatile, because they lack any ideological basis. In Britain, it takes considerable soul-searching to make the jump from the Conservative party to Labour or vice versa, since, when doing so, one has to abandon basic attitudes and assumptions.

Since neither the Liberal Party nor the Progressive Conservative Party in Canada has such a framework for their policies, the difference between them hinges on the personalities of their leaders. People feel quite free to switch parties every election and do so in what are really nothing but out-and-out popularity contests. The only exception to this is the NDP, Canada's ersatz socialist party which, unlike the other parties, has some class basis and is supported by a core of trade unionists and intellectuals. It has maintained pretty much the same percentage of the vote (about 18 per cent) all its life.

Whatever the party in power, one of the constants of Canadian life is its impeccably progressive social attitude. The envelopes in which citizens get their income tax forms assure recipients, in the two official languages, that: "The envelope contains a minimum of 50 per cent post-consumer recovered material."

This progressivism attained new heights, I thought, the very day I arrived. On my desk, *The Lawyers Weekly* carried a long report on the most recent Canadian Human Rights Tribunal decision.

The case in question involved a chap named James Ede, who is not quite 4ft 9in high. He had wanted to join the Canadian Armed Forces,

which rejected him on the grounds that he wasn't tall enough. The disappointed Mr Ede complained to the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Alas, so far the Canadian Human Rights Act has not had jurisdiction over the grievances of short people. It seems that while discrimination against disabled people is prohibited under the Act, "disability" is limited to the blind, lame, halt and so forth.

Mr Ede's ambition, it seems, is to be a mechanic with the Canadian Army. The problem with this, said Peter Englemann, legal counsel for the Canadian Armed Forces, is that on so small a person, the protective clothing for chemical warfare would slip over his knees, making it difficult for him to do what ever one does during chemical warfare. The standard army rifle with the smallest butt could not be fired safely by Mr Ede. When driving a vehicle, Mr Englemann explained to the tribunal, Mr Ede would have the choice between looking through the windshield or having his feet touch the pedals. Unfortunately, due to his smallness, he could not do both at once.

Counsel for Mr Ede countered that mechanics generally worked in pairs, so Mr Ede wouldn't necessarily have to drive. This led to some thoughtful consideration by the tribunal, which took the point, but worried about the consequences in combat if the driver were hurt. With due diligence, the tribunal's three members visited the Army's Land Engineering Test Establishment and watched a model (slightly smaller even than Mr Ede) attempting to use army vehicles. In the end, they came up with a Solomon-like decision.

They ruled that although shortness might well be described by some people as only a physical characteristic, it could now be considered a physical disability if it were so "perceived" by an employer. So long as an employer believed an applicant's characteristics to be a disability, well, then they were, and thus must be prohibited as a reason for refusing to employ him. I suppose this brings all short people (or tall ones, or fat or thin ones) under the protective wing of the Human Rights Act. This is tremendously heartening to the Canadian Human Rights Commission, which has now enlarged its scope of jurisdiction, by leaps and bounds. I feel certain this will make our own Equal Opportunities Commission green with envy.

Still, this did leave the tribunal with the prospect of a Canadian Army rather disabled itself, filled perhaps with little people marching about with backpacks slipping around their hips, or pilots on tippy-toe to reach the joystick. So the Canadian Human Rights Commission also ruled that in this case height was a bona fide occupational requirement, although, some disquiet was registered about the army's attempt to "reasonably accommodate smaller persons". The results were so pleasing to everyone that after the case was finished Mr Englemann, left his job and was taken on staff by the Human Rights Commission, Oh, Canada.

Nicole Swengley

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## SOCIETY

# Twinning as an academic exercise

On Monday Durham University will open a new college — funded by a Japanese institution to give Japanese students a taste of the British way of learning. **George Hill reports**

The cherry trees, blossoming pink and white all over the city of Durham this week, are helping to mitigate the impact of culture shock for 111 Japanese students who have arrived there as pioneers of a new experiment in cross-cultural education. Faced with English weather, English cooking, and herds of large boisterous Westerners deluging them with benevolent advice, the young visitors remain unflinchingly determined to be delighted by everything they see.

"Potatoes!" exclaims one, appreciatively identifying a distinctive item of British cuisine as she sits down to lunch at the long refectory table of a Durham college. On the college grounds, the students point admiringly at the daisies and dandelions (*tamapopo*), as for the cherry trees, they are like a breath of home.

The students are the first batch to come for a year of study as virtual members of Durham University, in a unique partnership between Durham and Teikyo University in Tokyo. On land leased from its hosts, Teikyo has endowed a college outpost thousands of miles from home, to give some of its second-year undergraduates a taste of a system of higher education very different from their own. In future years, their numbers will rise slightly to a permanent level of about 50.

For Teikyo, the Durham outpost is an astute move. The main strength of its campus on the outskirts of Tokyo ("Teik-kyo" means "Imperial City", as distinct from "Tokyo", or "Eastern City") is in medicine and pharmaceuticals; the new initiative will help broaden its base in the humanities.

For Durham, the link with a wealthy and well-regarded Japanese university, which is funding the operation, helps

to strengthen its international image, and reinforce the resources of its already considerable Oriental Studies department.

Unlike most British universities, Durham has land to spare (within 15 minutes walk of the city's superb historic centre), and has been able to make it available without risk of cramping provision for its own future needs.

The Japanese students' lives will be integrated as far as possible into the routines of their host university. Their courses of study — in history, sociology, international culture and English as a foreign language — will generally be different from those followed by their British counterparts, and they will live in separate, newly built dormitories.

But they will take their meals in college, and most of their teachers will be Durham lecturers. The students in each of the six colleges to which they are attached have elected a "Teikyo rep" to take charge of liaison between the two groups. Because Durham's summer term has not yet started, a group of students came back early as volunteers, to show the visitors round. Many of the newcomers will be spending their first week-end with local families.

Only 36 hours after their arrival at a strange university in a strange continent, the students were still busy finding their feet. From their dress, one might guess them to be a party of sophomores from an American campus. Although they have done six years of English studies at school and college, few of them are entirely at home with the language. "It is a new thing for us to be able to practice conversational English," says Miwa Maruoka, who is one of the more confident English-speakers. "I understand the grammar, but it is sometimes difficult to understand the idiom."

Visiting England for the first time, Miwa does not seem

at all troubled by being so far from home. "I am sure I will not be homesick, because I have looked forward so much to coming here," she says.

Her friend Akiko Egawa has brought with her a Japanese game as a device to break the ice — a brightly-coloured wooden toy called *kendama*, a version of diabolo, played with a ball on a string. The girls are in general adept at ice-breaking, ready at the drop of a hat to produce tiny sheets of pretty printed paper as gifts, or to bring out the family photographs. The boys appear at this stage to find mixing a little less easy.

"I see no sign that there will be serious acclimatization problems," says Henry King, bursar of the new college. "My immediate impression is that they are far more bright-eyed than I would have been if I had made the journey in reverse, into a completely different culture. The Durham students are being a great help — I see a great deal of youthful dynamism on both sides, and that is a very valuable raw material for the future of this institution."

The first lecture-room experiences for the students are a series of sessions to explain quirks of the British way of life like the immigration laws, the banking system and the college fire regulations. Mr King conducts a delicately phrased lecture on health and safety, dealing as tactfully as possible with awkward but unavoidable topics like alcohol and sexually transmitted diseases.

There are signs of a cultural divide at a session where officers of Durham police reinforce their warnings with a lecture about theft and burglary (a distinction which seemed to defeat the students' command of English idiom) and the old British custom of getting uproariously drunk on a Saturday night in the centre of Durham, which was best avoided at such times. The officers' bluff and jovial style



Learning our ways: some of the first batch of Japanese undergraduates at Durham talk to Eric Burdis, the university's liaison officer

ON A CAMPUS IN BRITAIN . . . WITH JUST 15 STUDENTS TO A CLASS

## Lessons in learning from West to East

Only a tiny percentage of the estimated 5,500 Japanese students in Britain attend British schools and colleges.

The majority attend the five Japanese schools and six Saturday-morning schools — for pupils who go to British schools during the week. There is also a Japanese university in Britain and two Japanese women's finishing colleges, in Winchester and Cheltenham. In 1979 there were only two full-time Japanese schools in Britain and one Saturday school.

At the Japanese primary, junior high and high schools in this country, 3,982 pupils study a Japanese curriculum and are taught mostly in Japanese. The university — Gyosei International College, which has been open a year and is affiliated with

Reading University, has 100 Japanese and two Japanese-speaking Chinese students. About 60 per cent of the students — aged between 18 and 20 — are male.

The first year of the four-year course is an intensive course in English. After that, having become fluent in English, the students concentrate on business administration and cultural studies. Of the 12 lecturers, only five are from Japan and the students learn in both Japanese and English.

Many of the students come from Japan to attend the university in order to benefit from the smaller classes — a maximum of 15 students. In Japan, classes of 500 are not unusual. "There, the universities go in for mass-production," the university's bursar, Tadahisa Wada, says. The tuition fees

are £4,000 a year and the students live mainly in the 13 halls of residence belonging to Reading University. Asked whether Gyosei's standard of education was higher than in Japan, Mr Wada replied: "I hope so."

The total Japanese population in Britain, according to figures released last October, amounts to 37,335. Of the students in Japanese schools and colleges, 4,225 have parents based in Britain on assignments which normally last between three and five years. Japan's vice-consul, Eiichi Arzi, estimates that the number of Japanese students in this country is rising by approximately 15 per cent each year.

Of the total of 67,500 overseas students studying in British universities and other publicly financed

bodies in the United Kingdom in 1988 (the latest figures available), only 793 were Japanese. Of these, 310 were doing postgraduate work at universities (201 men and 109 women) and 228 were university undergraduates (106 men and 122 women).

In the polytechnics and colleges there were 17 postgraduates (nine men and eight women) and 102 undergraduates (13 men and 89 women), while further education establishments had 136 students (47 men and 89 women).

There are no figures available for Japanese students attending independent schools and colleges in Britain, including those at private English-language colleges which cater for half a million foreign students.

Sally Brompton

is well-adapted to catch the attention of a school classroom, but seems to leave the students dumb with terror at being plunged into what is apparently a sink of rampant crime. The officers themselves ruefully acknowledge that their presentation would need to be re-thought.

The students will work in the Lafcadio Hearn Centre, a purpose-built block next to the university's Oriental Museum, among lawns dotted with oriental stone lanterns. It is decorated with hanging calligraphic scrolls, and its central courtyard has been laid out as a traditional Japanese garden, with gnarled rocks breaking the surface of a sea of white gravel. Hearn was a writer whose books about

Japan helped to interpret the country to the West a hundred years ago. Some of his rather miserable school days were spent in Durham, a connection which may have helped to catch the attention of Teikyo a few years ago, when it was looking for a British university in its plan for a partnership.

"We chose Britain because culturally Japan has a great interest in the United Kingdom," says Professor Yasuo Kobayashi, the principal of Teikyo's Durham college. "From the last century, when Japan began to open up to the outside world, the contact between our two countries has been very intimate."

The Japanese educational system is an intensely compet-

itive one, both for students vying to secure a place at the university which is most highly regarded by prospective employers, and for universities competing to lift themselves a notch in a pecking order of more than 500 institutions, the majority of which are funded mainly from their customers' tuition fees.

Founded in 1966, Teikyo is an expanding supplier in this intense educational market, and now has three campuses serving 16,000 students, as well as technical colleges, high schools, junior schools and kindergartens. It is possible today for a child to go through his or her entire

education as a Teikyo pupil. The main reason why Teikyo came to Durham was the university's system of colleges. "In Japan, universities have no such collegiate system," Professor Kobayashi says. "In humanities faculties, there can be up to 300 students to each teacher, and teaching has to be done in large lecture halls with microphones. Contact between teachers and students is not intimate. Here it is very different. At Durham, our students will be working in classes of about 10, and the collegiate system allows a greater sense of community to develop among the students. I believe that this will have a great effect on their study after they return to Japan."

Relations between teachers and students in Britain are also more equal and informal, and this may be one aspect of the Durham experience that the newcomers may find hard to get used to. "They will be unused to the family feel of this university, but I do not see it as a problem, because once the initial feeling of unfamiliarity is overcome, it will be a positive strength," says Mr King.

The classroom demeanour of the students suggests that getting over ingrained habits of deference and decorum in class may be a harder problem for them than making contact with their contemporaries. But 36 hours after their arrival on the campus, it is early days.



## BEING BRITISH, WHAT IT MEANS TO US

Read what these men say



MAY  
ISSUE  
ON SALE  
NOW

## Magic on the menu

THE TIMES  
ON SATURDAY  
IN COLOUR

IN THE four years Jonathan Meades has been *The Times* restaurant critic he has never awarded the ultimate accolade of 10 stars to any of the hundreds of premises he has visited. That will change tomorrow, when he reports in the Saturday Review on an encounter with superlative cooking. "Eating in the conservatory," he says in part, "one feels rather like Mrs Shilling's hair must often have felt. The assault by floral abundance is total. This room is very green, summery, relaxed. The staff is composed of young Frenchmen with telepathic gifts. Their ability to anticipate the customer's request is uncanny. Intimidatory tactics are not on the menu here. Children are treated with amiable respect, and there don't seem to be any rules about what you should or shouldn't wear . . . The harsh fact is that this restaurant is the most expensive in Britain. Two are unlikely to spend less than £180 a la carte; by sticking to the daily menu and drinking about, they could get out for about £70. But that would mean missing some of the best dishes to be had anywhere."

Also in the Review, Brian James investigates the truth behind a legend of injustice which has clung for 200 years to the man who claims he designed the first lifeboat. And Jane MacQuitty introduces our summer wine offer: a delicious case which she has selected for just £39.50, delivered free to your door.



## THE CHURCH WHAT IS IT?

John Metcalfe

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## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Gillian MaxeyThe jokes  
are on  
them

Jasper Rees

Perhaps wary of the fact that Mike Yarwood never recovered from the retirement of Harold Wilson and the defeat of Jim Callaghan, for his new series *Rory Bremner* (BBC2, 9.00pm) has opted for hot-off-the-press topicality with a clump of newly issued jokes about Strangeways, Mandela at Wembley, Bush and broccoli and the obligatory poll tax.

According to Bremner, Nelson Mandela visited Britain to pick up his Jim'll Fix It badge (Winnie apparently wrote to Mr. Savile requesting her husband's release). There are some new impressions too — John Major promising to reduce Mrs Thatcher's age to single figures and Mike Gating singing "Oh what a lovely tour" come to mind — although Bremner cannot find it in himself to drop his two trusty old

obsolescent Robin Day and Dennis Norden. There is such a preponderance of BBC figures in Bremner's repertoire — Desmond Lynam, Ben Elton, Alan Whicker, Robert Kilroy Silk, Nick Ross and Peter Snow — that one wonders how Bremner safely negotiates the corridors of Television Centre. The hit-or-miss satirical sketches have been more comfortably incorporated into the overall format than in the previous series, but Bremner's impressions remain far the best material on offer.

This week's arena (BBC2, 9.30pm) looks at Machiavelli's *The Prince* and wonders what it is for women. Nicola Roberts' witty thimble "The Princess", in other words, considers the relevance of a book about yesterday's men in power to today's women. An impressive array of ladies have been picked, including Antonia Fraser, Barbara Castle, Kate O'Mara and Emma Ridley, and a similarly eclectic selection of source material has been used (*Claudius*, *Corry On Cleo*, *Dynasty*), plus numerous sex-changed quotations from Old Nick's guide to the use and abuse of power itself.

The Chief (ITV, 9.00pm) is a new thinking man's cop show from Anglia. Tim Pigott-Smith gives a touching performance as tough Chief Constable John Stafford, who shows a disinclination to kowtow to anyone and everyone. Bangkok Hilton (BBC1, 9.30pm) is an Australian mini-series, which should tell you all you need to know. It is about a young woman (Nicole Kidman) looking for her long-lost father. As the father is played by Denholm Elliott, it deserves at least a cursory glance.

## BBC 1

6.00 *Casualty*.  
6.15 *Remember: A Month To Remember*. A look at the mosque, the centre of Muslim worship and community (r).

6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Cando. Includes news and analysis, with regular updates on weather, travel, business news and sport. Matthew Parris reviews the morning newspapers. 6.55 Regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather followed by *Children's BBC*, introduced by Simon Parkin and Andi Peters, begins with *Heathcliff* with Cate and Co. Cartoon adventures of an alley cat (r). 9.25 *Why Don't You...?* Teenage drama series mixing fact with fiction. 9.55 *Matchpoint*. The tennis-style quiz game (r). 10.30 *Playdays*. Today's story is Karen McCollum's *Party Hats and Pansies* (r).

10.55 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving with viewers' likes and dislikes of recent television programmes.

11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving with viewers' likes and dislikes of recent television programmes.

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather.

1.30 *Neighbours*. Australian suburban soap. (Continued from last week.) Another round of the tennis-style quiz game hosted by Angela Rippon.

2.15 *Film: The Great Lover* (1949, b/w) starring Bob Hope and Jean Hersholt. Typical Hope comedy in which he plays a timid scout leader in charge of a troop on board an ocean liner also carrying a glamorous duchess and a murderer.

3.35 *Lifeline*. Dr Jonathan Miller makes an appeal for victims of Alzheimer's Disease. Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Lithgow present the latest charity news.

3.50 *Henry's Cat*, narrated by Bob Godfrey (r). 4.00 *A Bear Behaving Badly*. Rhymes and verse for the young (r). 4.10 *Around the World with Willy Fog*. Animated adventure series (r). 4.35 *Eyewitness*. Puzzle quiz hosted by Christopher Fowler.

5.00 *Newsround*. World and home reports for younger viewers. 5.05 *Round the Twist*. Comedy show set around a father and his three children living in a haunted house. 5.15 *Neighbours* (r). (Continued from last week.)

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Moira Stuart. Weather.

6.30 *Regional News*. 7.00 *Wogan*. Terry's guests are the actor Sean Connery and master golfer Nick Faldo. Music comes from *Opportunity Knocks* winner Brenda Coward.

7.30 *Film: The Dirty Dozen*. The Next Mission (1968) starring Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine and a host of Hollywood heavies in a made-for-television sequel which doesn't quite match the surprise and excitement of the original. Marvin once again gets a pack of wild dog army criminals together on a suicide mission behind Second World War enemy lines. They aim to kidnap a top German officer but stumble on a better target. Good, if predictable, action. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen. (Continued from last week.)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Mary Lewis. Regional news and weather.

9.30 *Bangkok Hilton*. (Continued from last week.)

11.00 *Steve Wonder's Birthday Celebrations*. Another chance to see the two-part musical celebration party of one of the world's greatest soul singers. In the first show, there are archive clips of him as "Lester" Steve, interviews with special guests Paul Young and Tears for Fears, as well as plenty of old and new numbers from the grand master of funk.

12.00 *Film: Blood Beach* (1980) starring John Saxton, David Hoffman and Mariana Hill in a seaside suspense saga centred on a beach polluted with a sand monster which sucks sun-worshippers into the bowels of the day. The holiday horror starts well but bad-taste jokes make you wonder whether you should gasp or giggle. Directed by Jeffrey Bloom.

1.30 *Leathers*.

## ITV/LONDON

6.00 *TV-am* begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Maya Egan and, from 7.00, by Lorraine Kelly and Mike Morris. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. 8.50 *Wacadoo*. Children's entertainment presented by Timmy Mallet.

9.25 *Crossroads*. Tom O'Connor hosts this word show for crossword fanatics. 9.55 *Thames News* and weather.

10.00 *Out of This World*. Adventures of a 13-year-old girl who inherits her alien father's remarkable powers. 10.30 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes fashion news, holiday advice and a game show.

10.55 *News* and weather followed by *Weekend Outlook*.

2.10 *Snooker and Racing*. Coverage of the snooker from the Crucible and the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races from Newbury. Includes at news and weather at 3.00 and 3.30.

6.15 *Top Gear* (r). 6.45 *Gardeners' World*. Includes a look at how to attract wildlife to your garden pond in the first of a three-part series.

7.15 *What the Papers Say* with Roy Hattersley.

7.30 *Byways: The Brighton Line*. The story of one of the most famous roads in Britain, Brighton (London and East only).

8.00 *Public Eye: Hong Kong* — a British Welcomes Mike Embury examines the British presence in Hong Kong, giving 5,000 "key workers" and their families British passports and asks whether it will actually encourage them to stay in Hong Kong, as the Government hopes.

8.30 *United*. Part three of the series looking behind the scenes at Sheffield United Football Club. This week, while the team fights hard for promotion, the chairman decides to sell the club to an Iraqi.

9.00 *Rory Bremner*. (See choice.) 9.30 *Arena: The Princess* (see choice). 10.30 *Newswatch* 11.15 *Weather*. 11.20 *World Snooker*. The latest from the Crucible, Sheffield.

12.20 *News* and weather. 1.00 *Top Gear*. Introduces bluesman Big Joe Turner. Ends at 1.05.

5.10 *Home and Away*. 5.40 *News* with Sue Carpenter. Weather. 5.55 *Crime Monthly Preview* presented by Paul Ross.

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* includes a look at the world's latest phenomenon — the sale of a "concept" — and a visit from Kylie Minogue.

7.00 *Through the Keyhole*. Noisy viewers are given the opportunity to guess the celebrity owners of the two featured homes. Loyd Grossman provides the clues while David Frost points the camera. 7.15 *News* and weather.

7.30 *Coronation Street*. 8.00 *Supernatural*. 8.30 *News* and weather. 9.00 *Top Gear* (see choice).

10.00 *News* at Ten with Sandy Gall and Julia Semmings. Weather. 10.30 *LWT News* and weather.

10.55 *News* and weather. 11.15 *Beasty and the Beast*. The Outsiders. Cut series about a woman's love for a teddy bear who lives beneath Manhattan. Tonight, a violent gang threatens to disturb Vincent's underground world.

12.30 *News* and weather. 1.00 *The James Whale Radio Show*. Highlights from controversial past programmes. Followed by *News* and weather.

2.00 *Cinematrans*. Steve March with the latest gossip from Hollywood. Followed by *News* and weather.

2.30 *Unsolved Mysteries*. A look at some American crimes which the police have found impossible to solve.

3.30 *The Incredible Hulk*. Children's fantasy series on a ridiculous hour (r).

4.30 *Crusade in Europe* (b/w). D-Day revisited.

5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00.

## BBC 2

8.00 *News* 8.15 *Westminster*. 9.00 *Film: Change of Heart* (1943, b/w) starring John Carroll and Susan Hayward. Originally titled *Mr. Roberts*, this is a classic musical film about a young seafaring girl who finds that her publisher has conned her and stolen her story. Despite this, she still falls for him. Several big bands make an appearance, most notably Count Basie and his orchestra. Directed by Albert S. Rogell.

10.25 *David Backus*. Action from the second round at the Crucible.

1.20 *Tales of Asop*. Animated drama series. 1.25 *Freeman Sam* (r).

1.35 *World Snooker*. Further coverage from Sheffield.

2.00 *News* and weather followed by *Weekend Outlook*.

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4.30 *Crusade in Europe* (b/w). D-Day revisited.

5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Art of Landscape*. 6.30 *Channel Four Daily*. 9.25 *Film: Behind the 8-Ball* (1942, b/w). Comedy musical starring the Fitz Brothers, Carol Bruce, Dick Foran and William Demarest.

10.30 *Film: Captain January* (1936, b/w) starring Shirley Temple as a girl brought up by an old lighthouse keeper. Directed by David Butler.

12.00 *The Child's Eye* (r). 1.00 *Business Daily*. 1.30 *News* and weather. 2.00 *Circuit Trail*. Last in the series on electricity (r). (Teletext).

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Apr. 2. 2.35, 3.05, 3.35 and 4.05 races.

4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*. 5.00 *I Love Lucy* (b/w). 5.30 *A Haven and a Home*. The changes occurring in a 100-acre area of British countryside.

5.45 *Painted Tales*. Magritte's *Times Transferred* brought to life.

6.00 *True or False?* Game show. 6.30 *Black and White*. Comedy series. 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Nicholas Owen and Zeinab Badawi. Weather.

7.35 *Book Choice*. Derwent May reviews Richard Percival Graves's biography of Robert Graves.

8.00 *Short Stories: The Tattler*. A new series for up-and-coming new talent in the world of documentaries begins with the story of a London rat-and-bone man.

8.30 *Hard News*. The first in a new series of the award-winning weekly critique of the British Press.

9.00 *Cheers*. Comedy set in a Boston bar. (Teletext).

9.30 *Gardeners' Calendar*. Spring gardening techniques. (Teletext).

10.00 *Roseanne*. Domestic comedy. 10.30 *Che Anderson Talks Back* to Willie Rushton and Ken Livingstone.

11.20 *Tight Trousers* starring Vas Blackwood and Eddie Osei. Two young men are about to go out for the evening when something magical occurs.

12.10 *Film: Ticket to Heaven* (1981) starring Nick Mancuso. Award-winning drama about a young man who is kidnapped by friends after joining a bizarre religious sect. Directed by Ralph L. Thomas. Ends at 2.05.

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## SATELLITE

8.00am *International Business Report*. 8.30 *European Business Channel*. 9.00 *Kat*. 9.30 *Panel Post*. 10.00 *The New Price is Right*. 10.30 *The Young Doctors*. 11.00 *Sky by Day*. 12.00 *Another World*. 12.30 *As the World Turns*. 1.00 *Love*. 1.30 *A Problem Shared*. 1.45 *Here's Lucy*. 2.15 *Beverly Hills*. 2.45 *Super Chicken* and *Tom*. 3.00 *The Addams Family*. 3.30 *The New Leave It To Beaver*. 3.50 *Sky Star*. 4.00 *The New Price is Right*. 4.30 *Sale of the Century*. 5.00 *Sale of the Century*. 5.30 *Newsline*. 11.30 *The Deadly Ernest Picture Show*.

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## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Sting in abolishing certificates

From E. H. Rackley

Sir, A number of points have been made, in your columns and elsewhere, relating to problems that will arise if the proposed abolition of share certificates takes place. May I poke another stick in this little hornets' nest?

Should I die before I sell them, the person turning over my personal papers will find two documents indicating my ownership of 660 shares in British Gas. These shares can thus be valued and added to the rest of my vast fortune for taxation and distribution, and their ownership relinquished or transferred according to circumstance, with the minimum of trouble.

If they succeed in abolishing share certificates, the Stock Exchange will presumably be prepared to run a computer check upon notification of the death of any potential investor, man, woman or child, in the country, in order to ascertain whether or not a stock holding in that name exists.

The Inland Revenue is likely to require some such enquiry to be obligatory, and it will certainly be necessary in the interests of beneficiaries of

any estate. The Stock Exchange will need only to distinguish the holdings of John Smith from those of his son, or grandson, of the same name and recorded at the same address.

Inclusion in the computer of the investor's National Insurance number will take care of that, provided he lived most of the time in this country and had a number; and, if he did have one, that someone can remember what it was... all this assumes, of course, that what they have in mind is a centralised and consolidated register of all companies and shareholders; if not, the brow does begin to furrow a little.

It is not for fun that British Gas, on the back of these unnecessary pieces of paper, feels it worth while to print in large letters "This share certificate is a valuable document which you should keep in a safe place" and to say very much the same thing twice on the front.

Yours faithfully,  
E. H. RACKLEY,  
23 Redland Close,  
Bromsgrove, Worcs.  
April 12.

## Taxing times

From Mr R. V. Fox

Sir, Tax due on all my income as a basic rate taxpayer pensioner is withheld from my occupational pension.

In filing my P60 for 1989-90, just received, I compared the tax taken with that paid 40 years earlier in 1949-50.

The amount taken has multiplied by a factor of 140. When I look at my gross income in the same two years, I find the multiplier for that is but 51.

My allowances now, as then, are those of a married man, the only difference being that I now have a small mortgage interest relief.

Were City analysts serious when they suggested tax rates should have been increased in the March Budget?

Yours sincerely,  
RAYMOND V. FOX,  
Lantons,  
15 Braywick Road,  
Maidenhead,  
Berkshire.  
April 11.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

## Water tariffs

From R. D. Winyard

Sir, In the article on water meter trials (Business News, April 16), Mr David Gabbury, of Southern Water, offers no sympathy for pool owners, or, by implication, for gardeners on the Isle of Wight.

He rightly comments: "They must pay the true cost

of water." However, he omits to say that Southern Water's regional water tariff, excluding sewerage charges, is 31.4p per cubic metre, which is presumably the true cost.

At that level of charge, few pool owners or gardeners would object.

What does cause concern is the manipulation of, and experimentation with, tariffs

during the trials, and that the consumer has to pay through the nose while they continue.

Yours faithfully,  
R. D. WINYARD,  
Woodview,  
Youngwoods Way,  
Alverstoke Garden Village,  
Sandown,  
Isle of Wight.  
April 17.

## INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

## Switching savings into shares

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent



Inherent disadvantages: Andrew Hugh Smith

THE Government and the City yesterday blamed each other for the difficulties in expanding share ownership beyond what it has been over the past decade.

Mr John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, urged the City to make share dealing faster, cheaper and simpler, but Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of London's International Stock Exchange, called for a shift in economic fundamentals, requiring changes in Government objectives and policy.

Both were addressing an Institute of Economic Affairs Conference - Wider Ownership, the Next Steps.

Mr Hugh Smith identified the high level of home ownership - a key policy of Mrs Thatcher's Government - as being "directly in competition" with the goal of wider share ownership.

Another obstacle was the fixed interest deposits offered by banks and building societies, which were very attractive compared with returns on ordinary shares, particularly after adjustment for risk.

To switch savings flows into shares the Government would have to alter the relative value of returns on investments and recognize the trade-off between individual property ownership and share ownership, Mr Hugh Smith said.

It would also have to appreciate that high interest rates tend to favour the low-risk,

deposit-type investment. The political challenge lay in stabilizing and maintaining the value of the pound. "If this is not done, interest rates will remain high and the hurdle for returns on equity investment, risk-adjusted, will be insufficiently attractive."

Equally important was the need to "remove fiscal imbalances, which have already destroyed individual ownership of British industry to an unacceptable extent."

At least two-thirds of industry was owned by private individuals in the late 1950s. Today, less than 20 per cent of domestic equities was held by private individuals.

While tax relief on mortgage interest payments favoured home ownership, elements of the Capital Gains Tax were still seen to penalize share ownership compared with other forms of investment.

Mr Hugh Smith said that unless the skewing of savings flows away from share ownership was changed, "any drive to achieve wider share ownership will be fighting against inherent disadvantages."

Mr Redwood said the share markets had to become "more accessible" and "less confined by excessive regulation."

"It is vital that the cost of transacting a share deal be kept low to avoid discouraging the small shareholder," he said, citing the £17.50 cost of executing a small bargain in London - nearly four times

the cost in Paris. Mr Redwood said the planned switch by the ISE to Taurus - a computerized, paperless share-transfer system - had to provide cheap and effective settlement and not impose any direct costs on the small passive shareholder.

London's costs could be cut by computerizing back offices and moving some activities from expensive City locations to cheaper premises, he suggested. The Securities and Investments Board, the financial services watchdog, also had pressed home its attack on overcostly and overcomplicated regulation.

The Government's twin policies of privatization and encouraging share ownership had led to one in four adults holding shares, against one in 15 in 1979.

Mr Redwood said the Government's actions to promote share ownership had been so successful that they had created a "major social trend." But he also saw a large business opportunity in share ownership that need not entail undue risk for individuals.

He noted that wider ownership provided firmer underpinning for the large liquid London markets and that small shareholders were often long-term investors.

It could reduce political tensions originating from misperceptions of the City as a rich man's casino and an institutional club by showing it to be the "people's capital market."

## City 'must seek to restore trust in institutions'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE chairman of the International Stock Exchange called on the City to urgently seek solutions to the problem of how to restore industry's trust in institutional investors.

The alternative, said Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, was that solutions, perhaps arbitrary ones, would be forced on the City by government intervention.

While it was not easy to identify the extent of industry's distrust of its institutional investors, "we can be sure there is a problem," he told the conference in Westminster.

"It cannot be healthy that the gaps of understanding, the level of distrust of the City and particularly of the investor community, should continue at this high level."

He listed the familiar complaints of investors letting down management of the companies they owned, of their "short-termism" and their obsession with maximizing shareholder value.

While coming out firmly against moves to restrict takeover bids, Mr Hugh Smith said that if the complaints about institutional investors' short-termism were justified,

it would be a "serious charge." He suggested the underlying problem could be that the role of the institutional investor had changed as the importance of the individual shareholder had declined.

Institutional investors now held about 70 per cent of shares in industry.

"They have, therefore, become owners rather than investors."

But he said ownership carried obligations as well as privileges, and failure to recognize the obligations was likely to lead to pressure for intervention, probably by the Government.

He proposed that one approach could be for managers in industry to seek to put aside the buyer and seller relationship and cultivate more of a "partnership relationship" with their institutional investors.

This might involve accepting that the institutions could become insiders for a time and that this would be part of the price. But it would allow investment managers to reach more informed conclusions about the long-term values of their investment and develop greater loyalty.

## Hong Kong may go it alone over airport plan

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government reaffirmed its commitment to the HK\$127 billion (£10 billion) airport plan amid growing concern that the project could be torpedoed by Peking.

Sir Piers Jacobs, the Financial Secretary, said he had yet to convince China of the viability of a new airport, but was confident that Hong Kong could finance the development regardless of Chinese support.

"If it came to the pinch we

can still finance it with our own accumulated fiscal reserves," he said.

Hong Kong's reserves of HK\$71 billion will go a long way towards financing the project, which will cost HK\$35 billion, and the road, transport and utility links, which would cost another HK\$42 billion. The HK\$50 billion port expansion plan, however, would have to be phased out if private funds were not forthcoming, said Sir Piers.

## WORLD MARKETS

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)
The World	712.3	0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4
(free)	136.1	0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4
EAFE	1241.4	1.0	-20.3	0.7	-15.4
(free)	127.4	1.1	-20.6	0.7	-15.6
Europe	734.6	-1.0	-3.4	-0.7	-3.6
(free)	158.4	-1.0	-3.1	-0.9	-3.5
Nth America	505.6	-0.8	-6.0	-0.2	-4.1
Nordic	1497.4	-0.4	-3.8	0.1	-3.8
(free)	237.4	-0.4	-1.0	0.1	0.8
Pacific	2783.6	2.6	-28.8	1.8	-22.3
Far East	4025.4	2.7	-30.4	1.9	-22.8
Australia	302.2	-0.5	-13.0	-0.5	-9.2
Austria	2089.0	-2.4	-40.6	-1.9	-42.0
Belgium	915.8	-0.1	-7.0	0.4	-7.6
Canada	507.3	-1.8	-15.5	-1.5	-13.5
Denmark	1385.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	0.3
Finland	102.0	-0.9	-11.6	-0.5	-11.5
(free)	140.1	-0.9	-8.0	-0.6	-5.9
France	839.0	-0.5	3.8	0.1	3.1
Germany	961.6	-1.4	4.8	-0.9	5.8
Hong Kong	2370.7	0.3	6.9	0.8	8.9
Italy	391.7	-1.3	1.8	-0.7	0.7
Japan	4224.6	2.9	-31.5	2.0	-23.7
Netherlands	689.7	-1.1	-4.8	-0.8	-4.2
New Zealand	87.1	0.2	-15.5	0.3	-11.7
Norway	1515.1	-1.6	12.9	-0.3	13.8
(free)	265.2	-1.4	13.5	-0.9	14.4
Sing/Malay	1934.6	-0.7	-3.0	-0.3	-2.4
Spain	218.8	-0.3	-8.4	0.0	-9.5
Sweden	1613.8	0.0	-6.0	0.4	-7.8
(free)	231.5	-0.1	-4.4	0.3	-4.2
Switzerland	858.4	-0.7	-8.1	-0.7	-8.1
(free)	131.7	-0.6	-5.7	-0.6	-7.7
UK	647.6	-1.1	-10.2	-1.1	-10.2
USA	458.1	-0.7	-3.2	-0.1	-3.3

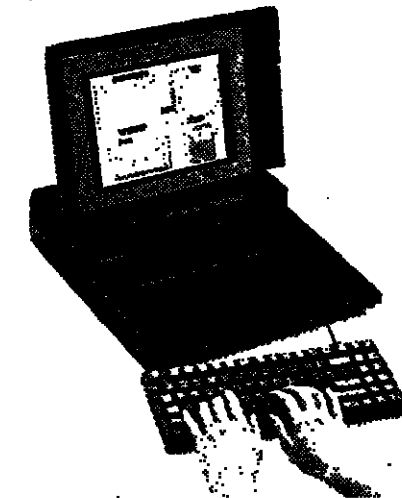
S&amp;P Local currency

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

## When recognition is critical, it's black and white.

Music scores are in black and white because recognition is easy and instantaneous. So for eminent readability, text and graphics appear in clear black and white on Hitachi's HL500 portable computer's screen. That's because Hitachi's double-layer type black and white STN LCDs with CFL\* backlighting create a beautifully pure black and white screen with impeccable contrast. The difference is dramatic. And gratifying to the eye.

Such innovation is one result of Hitachi's advanced micron-level technology and incorporated in the HL500. It assures exceptional clarity for text and complex graphics and fully supports VGA software. Hitachi computers feature state-of-the-art LSIs and VLSIs made by Hitachi.



Whatever the product, from laptops to super computers, from home appliances to Factory Automation systems, Hitachi has the same philosophy. This philosophy goes beyond incorporating over 40,000 patented technologies. With the vast scope of its expertise, Hitachi can design each feature, major and minor, with every other feature in mind. The result is in-depth integration, guaranteeing the special quality which is the hallmark of Hitachi.

\* STN = Super-Twisted Nematic;  
CFL = Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp



Hitachi Europe Ltd.  
Trafalgar House  
Hammersmith International Centre  
2 Chiswick Road  
Hammersmith, London W6 6DW  
Phone: (01) 748-3201  
Fax: (01) 741-6395







TEMPUS

# Albert Fisher retains that tasty look

FOR a company whose shares ranked among the best performers of the 1980s, Albert Fisher has had to work hard at times to keep its institutional shareholders sweet.

At least its £180 million fund-raising at the turn of the year is now accepted by the City for the imaginative and efficient exercise that it was, even though a nose or two may have been put out of joint at the time.

There are few greater pacifiers than performance, of course, and a 53 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £30.5 million halfway through its year better than sustains the phenomenal growth record of Fisher under Mr Tony Millar, its genial executive chairman.

Underlying organic growth was 23.6 per cent, and converts into a 23.4 per cent improvement in earnings at 4.59p a share. Once again, such is the spread and balance of the group's distribution chain across North America and Europe that the odd upset, like heavy rain in Spain's citrus farms or margin pressure in the tiny European frozen food business, has negligible impact on the overall figure.

Increasing US demand for pre-prepared salads and such-like and the new frontiers opening in eastern Europe, where Fisher will buy £50

million of blackcurrants and strawberries this year, point the growth areas of the future.

However impressive the trading results, though, it is the balance sheet that underlines Fisher's strength just now. December's rights issue, taken up by 92.7 per cent of shareholders, has left the group with net cash of £50 million, rising to an expected £100 million by the year-end.

Underpinning it all is Corporate Partners, the US investment house whose emergence as underwriter to the rights issue ruffled the odd institutional feather last Christmas. CP has 5.1 per cent of the equity, is locked in for three years, and has permission to raise its stake to 20 per cent, but no further.

In a lacklustre market Fisher shares held steady at 118p, where, even though a pretax £75 million looks comfortably within range for the full year, suggesting earnings of almost 9p a share, they still command a significant premium. Given the group's evident defensive qualities, and CP's readiness to buy at 110p, it looks more than justified.

## IBC

LIKE a man running up an escalator which is fast travelling in the opposite direction, International Business Communications (Holdings)



Tony Millar: steering a 1980s star to new heights

runs well at the operating level and in the year ended December saw operating profits up from £14.76 million to £16.58 million. But with interest charges up from £1.43 million to £7.57 million, the group runs out of breath at the pre-tax level, where profits in 1989 came down from £13.3 million to £9 million.

The trick is that following the buy-back at 150p of 40 per cent of its equity, the earnings base has shrunk. This sees net

earnings for 1989 rise — from 13.4p to 16.5p a share, which allows IBC to keep faith with shareholders and pay a final dividend of 3p (2.8p), to make 4.5p (4.1p) for the year.

The debt burden is a mixture of capped sterling but free market guilden loans totalling £57.5 million, and a £10 million overdraft — and debt is the see-saw on which IBC shares will continue to swing while interest rates remain high.

Should interest rates fall by 1 percentage point, IBC earnings stand to benefit by 1.4p a share. But interest rates and market sentiment are not yet running in IBC's favour, and the shares, which have underperformed by 50 per cent in the past nine months, and by 18 per cent in the past three, stood at 69p yesterday. After balance sheet write-downs, the current price is probably twice the net asset value.

Debt reduction remains an obligation, and a priority, but that in turn constrains acquisition plans. But while the Fleet Street Letter "tip-sheet" business ticks over, at least the business publishing and the conference division remain on growth tracks.

A p/e of 4.2 based on published 1989 earnings and an historic yield of 8.7 per cent merely serve to emphasize the gambles.

## LEP Group

A CURIOUS beast is the LEP Group, and the lack of anything quite like it is not the least of the factors holding back the share price.

The company is perceived, wrongly, as a British-based transport group. But in the annual figures to end-December, 57 per cent of operating profits came from its burgeoning security business in the US, the now 100 per cent-

owned National Guardian Corporation, which is in third or fourth place with 7 per cent of the huge US market.

There is a significant property arm, centring on the little understood LEP House development close to St Paul's, in London, an associated company, but where LEP has the effective rights to all profits.

Most curious of all, there is a tiny offshoot making AIDS testing equipment. But the initial core of the group is its worldwide freight forwarding business, now planning further inroads into Eastern Europe but still struggling to resuscitate its US business.

The recovery so far boosted operating profits growth in the distribution business by 70 per cent to £15.2 million last year, and there is room for further growth as the market favours the larger players.

Pre-tax profits came in at £26.5 million, after £18.5 million in 1989, and the company is probably on course for £35 million this year. The City remains concerned about the 106 per cent gearing, although much of the borrowing is fixed and overseas.

The shares, down 4p at 148p, sell on a cheap-looking less than 8 times future earnings. But beware; they are now 25p or so below their level a year ago, and the market will probably have to get a better handle on LEP before they improve.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Peugeot Talbot up to £135m as sales boom

PEUGEOT Talbot reached record pre-tax profits of £135.3 million last year, when, cashing in on last year's record new car sales, the Coventry company increased its sales in Britain by nearly 10 per cent. It sold almost 140,000 cars, including imports from France, and its British market share rose from 5.7 per cent in 1988 to 6 per cent.

The Ryton plant, which now exclusively produces the Peugeot 405 saloon, turned out 30,000 more cars last year than in 1988 to reach 107,000, including thousands for export. Last year was the first full year of a return to double shifts at Ryton. The company hopes to produce 120,000 cars this year, to make it the fifth of increased output. Peugeot Talbot, a subsidiary of Peugeot, of France, was producing only 20,000 cars at Ryton in 1985. By 1987, profits had risen to £13 million and the 1988 figure soared to £106.7 million.

### Silvermines at £6.9m

SILVERMINES, the Irish engineering to property group, reports pre-tax profits of £27 million (£6.91 million) for the year ended December, compared with £13.22 million, after a rise in investment income which stemmed from the sale of its holding in Tuskar Resources. Sales were £162.1 million (£136.5 million). A final £2.5p makes 14p.

### BMW drops £30m plan

BMW (GB), the British subsidiary of Bayerische Motoren Werke, the German car maker, has dropped plans to build a £30 million headquarters and warehouse complex at Swindon, Wiltshire, for which it won planning consent last week. It said that the decision was due to its parent's plans to reorganize parts distribution on a pan-European basis.

### Bridon close to offer

BRIDON, the wire rope maker, expects to reach agreement on a proposal for a recommended all cash offer for the issued share capital and convertible bonds of NV Verto, a Dutch wire and synthetic fibre rope maker, for £27.2 million.

The offer will be at 83.25 pence cash (£186 including the proposed 1989 ordinary dividend of £12.75 per share) for each £120 common share, valuing Verto's net assets at £162.5 million (£20.2 million), net of common share dividend. The expected offer of £1.100 for each £1.000 convertible bond values the bonds at a total of £121.8 million.

### Loss deepens at S Daniels

S DANIELS, the food importer and distributor, made a pre-tax loss of £420,000 last year, against a £231,000 loss previously. Sales rose from £35.6 million to £38.2 million. The loss per share rose from 2.34p to 3.5p. The dividend for the year has been maintained at 2.5p. The canned food division was sold, resulting in a £2.7 million extraordinary credit.

### Really Useful talks likely

THE buy-in vehicle attempting to take Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group private is likely to seek talks with Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian, with a view to breaking the deadlock his 6.6 per cent holding in RUG has created. By the first closing date, the composer's vehicle owned 89.5 per cent. The offer remains open.

### Crean profits up 27%

JAMES Crean, the Dublin electrical products and food distribution group, reported a 27.3 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £21.5 million (£21 million) in the year to end-December, on sales 36.7 per cent higher at £118.4 million.

Fully diluted earnings per share climb from £17.6p to £17.33p. The final dividend is improved to £10.47p (£9.3125p), making £17.625p for the year, up 11.5 per cent on last year. The company said its principal subsidiaries all performed satisfactorily, as did International Aircraft Services, in which the group holds a 30.67 per cent interest.

## THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

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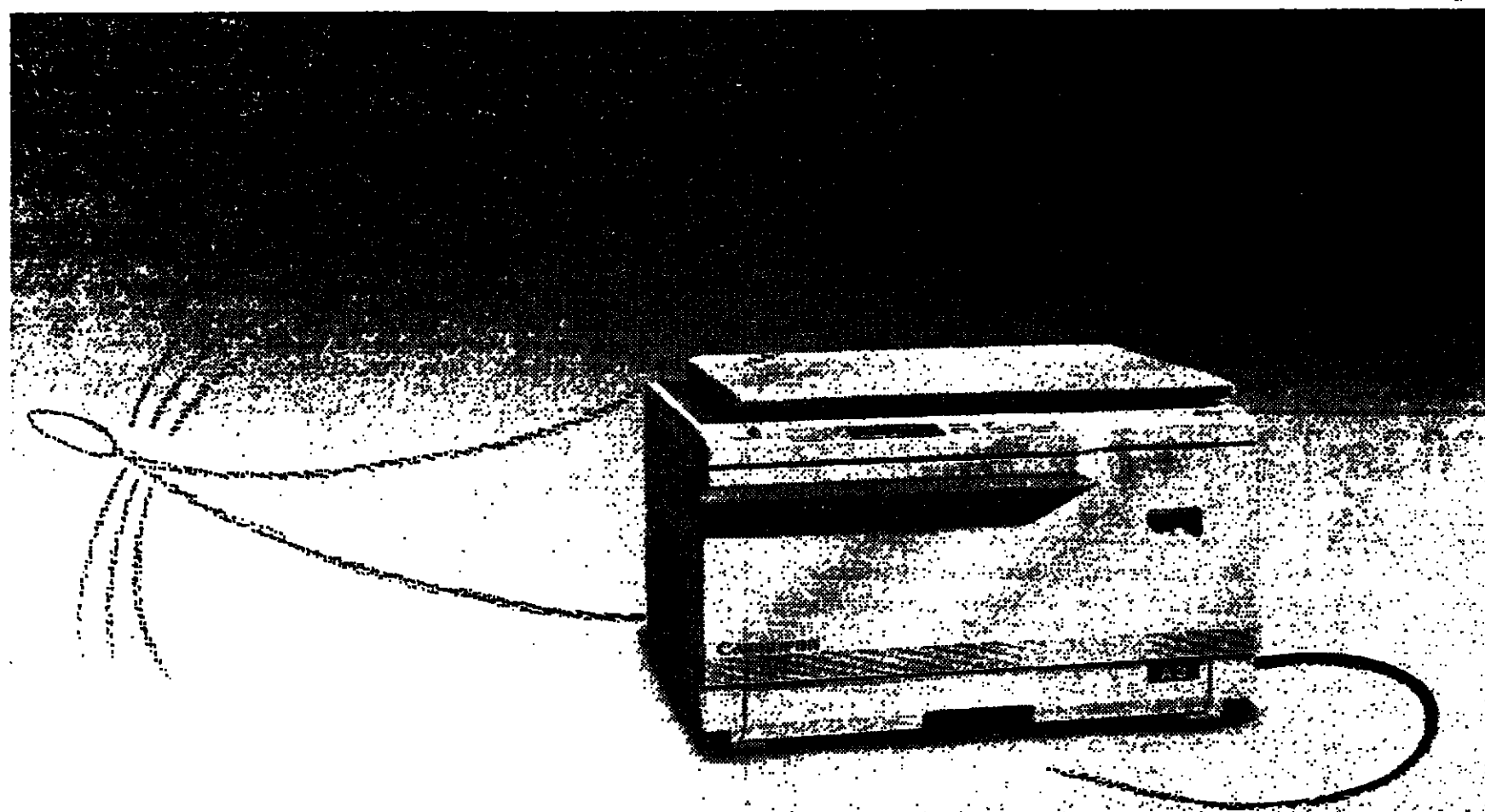
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# EC initiative set to end Airbus subsidy dispute

From Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent, Toulouse

The dispute between Europe and America over the alleged \$10 billion in government subsidies paid to Airbus Industrie could be settled by the end of the month after a peace initiative by the European Commission.

Once that problem has been solved, British Aerospace will be told how much it will have to pay in compensation for the four-month strike at its plants. They halted delivery of wings for the Airbus jets and caused anger among the partners over the ensuing chaos.

The strike is estimated to have cost between \$180 million and \$200 million and BAE could technically be asked for 40 per cent under the terms of the consortium's rules. It is

more likely, however, that a compromise will be reached in which BAE will be asked to pay less, although the details have not yet been discussed by the Airbus board.

Hopes are rising on both sides of the Atlantic that a draft proposal drawn up in Brussels, to be discussed in Washington, could prevent a damaging trade war, which is threatening to wreck the success of Airbus in the US.

After years of recrimination, during which the US threatened to impose a penal duty on imported Airbus aircraft and Europe planned to retaliate against the sale of Boeing 747 jumbos, the climate has suddenly improved. "Both sides have realized

that in many respects they are all grey and there are no black and whites," an official involved in the talks said. "It is ridiculous for old friends to fall out in this way when they face a more significant common enemy in Japan."

The EC plan involves rewriting two key clauses in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on civil aircraft sales, which would effectively "legalize" the Airbus launch aid provided by Britain, West Germany, France and Spain.

It would also recognize America's right to provide hidden subsidies to its own aircraft manufacturers through research contracts placed by the Defence Department, which are then used in

civilian aircraft projects. Europe has insisted it cannot agree never to accept government launch aid but has accepted the need for greater openness and financial discipline.

Britain has regarded itself as innocently caught in the wrangle. The Government provided a one-off £250 million to BAE to help build the wings for the successful A320 jet, of which £50 million had to be repaid almost immediately and the remainder contained a high interest payment.

It is now expected that all the cash will have been repaid when 600 aircraft have been sold, in about three years. Thereafter the Treasury will reap profits on its investment.

## Profits top £10m at Wm Low

By Gillian Bowditch

SCOTTISH stores group Wm Low has regained some of the credibility it lost when its £212 million deal to buy the northern Gateway stores from Icoscel fell through last month.

Mr James Miller, Low's managing director, revealed strong earnings growth in the six months to March with pre-tax profits up from £8.2 million to £10.5 million. Turnover rose from £157 million to £185 million and fully diluted earnings per share rose from 11.2p to 15.4p. The interim dividend is 2.5p, up from 2.1p.

Like-for-like sales growth in the first half was 8.7 per cent and is maintaining that level in the second half. Margins rose from 5.2 per cent to 6 per cent.

Mr Harvie Findlay, finance director, said there was no downturn in spending on food, and added that the emphasis on fresh foods and value-added products was continuing.

Two new stores were added in the first half and one was extended. No new stores are planned for the second half, but 10 will be opened in the next two years. The interest charge in the first half was £590,000 and £639,000 of



No red faces: James Miller, left, and Harvie Findlay enjoy improved profits

interest was capitalized, compared with £360,000 last time. Gearing is about 20 per cent and the capital-expenditure programme for this year is likely to be about £30 million.

Mr Christopher Blake, the group's chairman, said he was

disappointed not to acquire some of Gateway's northern stores, but added that he was not prepared to go ahead other than on terms beneficial to Wm Low.

There will be an extraordinary charge in the full-year

figures relating to the cost of the aborted deal. It is likely to be less than £1 million.

Last year's figures included an extraordinary charge of £2.7 million for the aborted deal with Budgens. Shares remained at 314p.

## Rockfort ahead of forecast

By Our City Staff

Shares in Rockfort, the property developer and house-builder, fell 7p to 25p, despite reporting preliminary figures slightly better than the company had told shareholders to expect three months ago.

In January, Mr Roger Smees, chairman, said that profits for the full year were unlikely to show much improvement on the £2.8 million it made at the interim stage.

In the event, Rockfort made £3.1 million pre-tax profits in the year to December, compared with £8.8 million. Earnings per share were sharply lower at 4.6p, compared with 16.2p. But despite this and, contrary to some expectations, a final dividend of 0.5p is being paid to make 1.9p (2.6p).

## Two abrupt twists in Runciman fight

By Martin Waller

THE battle for control of Walter Runciman, the shipping and security equipment group, took two abrupt turns last night with a higher and final cash offer from Avena, the Swedish group, valuing it at £63.4 million, and news that the Runciman management was in talks with a third party.

Avena, which only on Wednesday increased its initial offer from 520p to 625p a share, is now offering the equivalent of 699p, including a 9p final Runciman dividend already proposed. Avena says it now owns or has the support of 54 per cent of the company's shares, having bought another 12.9 per cent in the market before raising its offer yesterday.

The shares bought include 8.4 per cent held by Scottish Amicable. Lord Runciman, Runciman's chairman, whose family controls about 30 per cent of the company, said he was surprised at the institution's decision, which he believed would cost it money.

He would not name the third party, although it is widely believed to be a West German or Scandinavian shipping group, but said Runciman had been in touch with it for the duration of the bid. Shareholders were advised to take no action pending the talks' outcome. But a spokesman for the other side dismissed the Runciman statement as "very woolly" and late.

## Offer for Sketchley is dropped

By Angela Mackay

COMPASS Group has walked away from its £97 million paper offer for Sketchley, the cleaning and vending group, leaving the way clear for introduction of a proposed management team to try to trade it out of its difficulties.

Mr Gerry Robinson, Compass chairman, said: "We have always said we would not overpay for the company."

The announcement was made after the market closed yesterday, when Compass ended down 5p at 305p, with Sketchley unchanged at 265p.

Compass said it would not increase or extend its offer beyond the April 24 closing date unless it could be declared unconditional. Yesterday, Compass could speak for only about 1 per cent of Sketchley.

## MSR in £149m rights issue

By Matthew Bond

MR MARTYN Deane, chairman of the off-shore oil production group Midland & Scottish Resources, is confident that its 20 per cent shareholder British & Commonwealth will take up its share of a £149 million rights issue launched by MSR.

"We expect B&C to take up its rights. They have made a lot of money out of MSR. It's only a question of the banks they are involved with deciding whether it is a good idea," Mr Deane said.

Mr John Gunn, B&C's chief executive, who joined the MSR board last year, has agreed to take up his personal entitlement.

MSR launched the 11-for-10 rights issue to finance a £156 million acquisition of a private company controlled by MSR directors. A further £35 million is being raised through the issue of non-interest-bearing convertible loan notes.

MSR's shares, which were the best performing shares of 1989, fell 23p to 173p.

MSR is 49.4 per cent owned by a private company, Midland & Scottish Group, which is 60 per cent owned by Mr Deane, with other MSR directors also having interests.

The rights issue has irrevocable commitments from 49.5 per cent of its shareholders. BZW, the company's adviser, has underwritten the balance of the issue.

MSR will use the money to buy Tortin, a Guernsey holding company whose principal subsidiary is Societa Armatore Navi Appoggio, an Italian company. The Rome company has placed a £200 million contract with Italy's state-owned and subsidized shipbuilding company to build a semi-submersible floating production platform — one of the biggest in the world.

Oil Field Development, another Tortin subsidiary, will provide project management for the design of the rig and its eventual deployment. Mr Deane says OFD has identified 10 potential small fields which the Italian-built platform could work on when completed in 1992.

MSR is already adapting one vessel to exploit its main current asset, its 44 per cent interest in the Emerald field in the North Sea.

The rights issue was accompanied by MSR's results for the year to December, revealing sharply reduced losses of £2.5 million before tax.

## COMMENT

## Fund managers edged to the boardroom

Many of the political woes of the securities business, and especially the endless argument over takeover bids and short-term thinking, ultimately stem from the dominance of institutional fund managers, who now control 70 per cent of shares and an even higher proportion of trading. In contrast to private investors, who see investment choices individually, fund managers tend to view shares in one company as interchangeable with shares in dozens or hundreds of others at, or near, the relative ratings established in the market.

While that is the case, the relationship of institutions and companies must be at the centre of the argument over the takeover industry, whose perceived disregard for the interests of British business is highly vulnerable to a change of government. The drive to improve contacts has, unsurprisingly, yet to persuade fund managers to put long-term loyalty above short-term fund performance.

But Andrew Hugh Smith, now emerging strongly from the shadows as chairman of the Stock Exchange, took the argument a stage further yesterday. Fund managers instinctively take a longer view if they have personal knowledge of management and the business, he suggested. Company boards should, therefore, try to forge a partnership with their main institutional investors even if this sometimes turns them into insiders, with knowledge not available to the public or to the stock market. The administrative and time costs to institutions could be defrayed by co-operative ventures between them.

The argument has moved a long way

when the chairman of the Stock Exchange voices such thoughts. He stopped short of suggesting that institutional investors should be on company boards — but that is where his arguments clearly pointed.

Relatively few takeover bids are about replacing managements who have upset their institutional shareholders. But these cases have persuaded fund managers to see bidders as their champions in raising the value of their investments. Direct influence can only be achieved if big shareholders have seats in the boardroom, taking part in the decisions on strategy, share issues or management pay, rather than just being the target of hard-sell presentations of decisions already taken.

It would be impractical for top fund managers to sit on hundreds of boards. They should, in effect, choose and hire most of the non-executive directors who are supposed to represent all shareholders but too often represent none. This could either be done jointly or by one or more lead institutions for each big company.

Since this would give the institutions a privileged position, there would probably need to be a *quid pro quo* for private shareholders. The most constructive might be enhanced voting rights for small shareholders.

All such devices distort a free capital market and are no substitute for long-term moves to correct imbalances of supply and demand for shares. But they should have positive benefits and are undeniably much better than laws frustrating shareholders' rights, which are burgeoning in the United States and could well make an appearance here if the City and industry do not take the initiative.

## Policing public purchases

British business stands to gain substantially if Europe can be weaned off its strong nationalistic bias in public sector purchasing policies — if we do not find ourselves playing by the rules when others are bending them. That much has been evident during the past two days of conferences, courtesy of the National Economic Development Office, attended by nearly 200, mostly British, business leaders and prospective buyers from mainland Europe.

What Sir Geoffrey Howe condemned as "the scandal of national preference" bedevils the issue. While paying lip service to the principles of free trade, governments and associated agencies have tended to buy from their accustomed domestic suppliers. Sir Geoffrey's arithmetic suggests that with EC public procurement worth about £450 billion a year, there could be efficiency savings of about £70 billion if the winds of competition were allowed to blow keenly.

That is fine for those paying the bills — ultimately taxpayers. But more to the

point for business is an estimate that as EC directives progressively free up public sector purchasing, present cross-border sales worth about £20 billion should grow to about £100 billion.

Britain's market share is about a fifth. So we ought to be able to look to a net gain of at least £16 billion or even more, as long as the public procurement trading game is played on even terms. But if Britain finds itself at the sunken end of a badly tilting playing field, British business could probably say goodbye to that £16 billion.

Clearly, the Commission in Brussels must push hard on this one — there is agreement by the member countries to free up the utilities, such as water, telecommunications, energy and transport. But directives will only be the start; everybody admits this is tricky territory bedevilled by the thickets of bureaucracy. Robert Coleman, the Commissioner involved, will not only have to be prepared to act as policeman but to have the forensic skills of an Hercule Poirot.

## Who had the world's fastest industrial growth rate in the eighties?

When you consider that Ontario covers an area the size of France and Spain combined, it is perhaps less surprising to learn that between 1984 and 1988 the world's fastest industrial growth actually took place here.

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workforce (one fifth of whom speak a second language) and first class technological expertise ensure productivity and quality control second to none.

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## Roberts to the rescue at P&D

THE irreplaceable Stephen "gilt guru" Lewis, who once predicted that 50,000 City jobs would be lost after the stock market crash in 1987, has finally been replaced at UBS Phillips & Drew. Lewis, a former partner, left the firm a year ago to form Fifth Horseman Publications, and remains a consultant there. His old job has gone to Malcolm Roberts from rival securities house Salomon Brothers. Roberts, who left Salomon on Wednesday, is due to begin work at P&D next month. A former senior economist at the Henley Forecasting Centre, Roberts began his City career as the chief UK economist at Laing & Cruickshank. He joined Salomon in 1986 as head of bond research. At P&D, he will be deputy managing director of the debt division, responsible for international debt research. Nicholas Ryan, the division's managing director, said: "This appointment, which includes financial responsibility for the firm's currency research, reflects the importance attached by the company to this aspect of its client services." Roberts' skills in "establishing international fixed income and asset allocation strategies" made this a key appointment.

## Dullish deal

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Farewell to Newberry

A VETERAN of Fleet Street's financial back pack, Michael Newberry, employed for more than 25 years by the *Sunday Express* — latterly as its deputy City Editor — died in hospital on Wednesday night. Best remembered as a *bon viveur* and for his ability to take no notes at a press conference and still reproduce all the figures with the utmost accuracy, he took early retirement in 1986. An impressive crooner, he could never resist

know something about unit trusts. Salary by negotiation. So read the message this week from the beleaguered Unit Trust Association, which is trying to recruit a dynamic chief to lead it through the 1990s. The UTA, which represents the £55 billion unit trust industry, has been accused, among other things, of lacking direction. So now the hunt is on for a high-flier to take over from Tony Smith, the present chief executive, who retires next year. And, in a letter to John Fairbairn, the UTA chairman, help has now been offered by an unexpected white knight — the advertising group Saatchi & Saatchi, which is only too familiar with matters of image. The problem, according to Saatchi & Saatchi, is that unit trusts are boring. "We have to make the whole thing less dull," said a

spokesman. "It should be managed by less dull people doing less dull things with less dull advertising." How refreshingly frank...



"I believe it could be used as a gun"

## Carry on at Capel

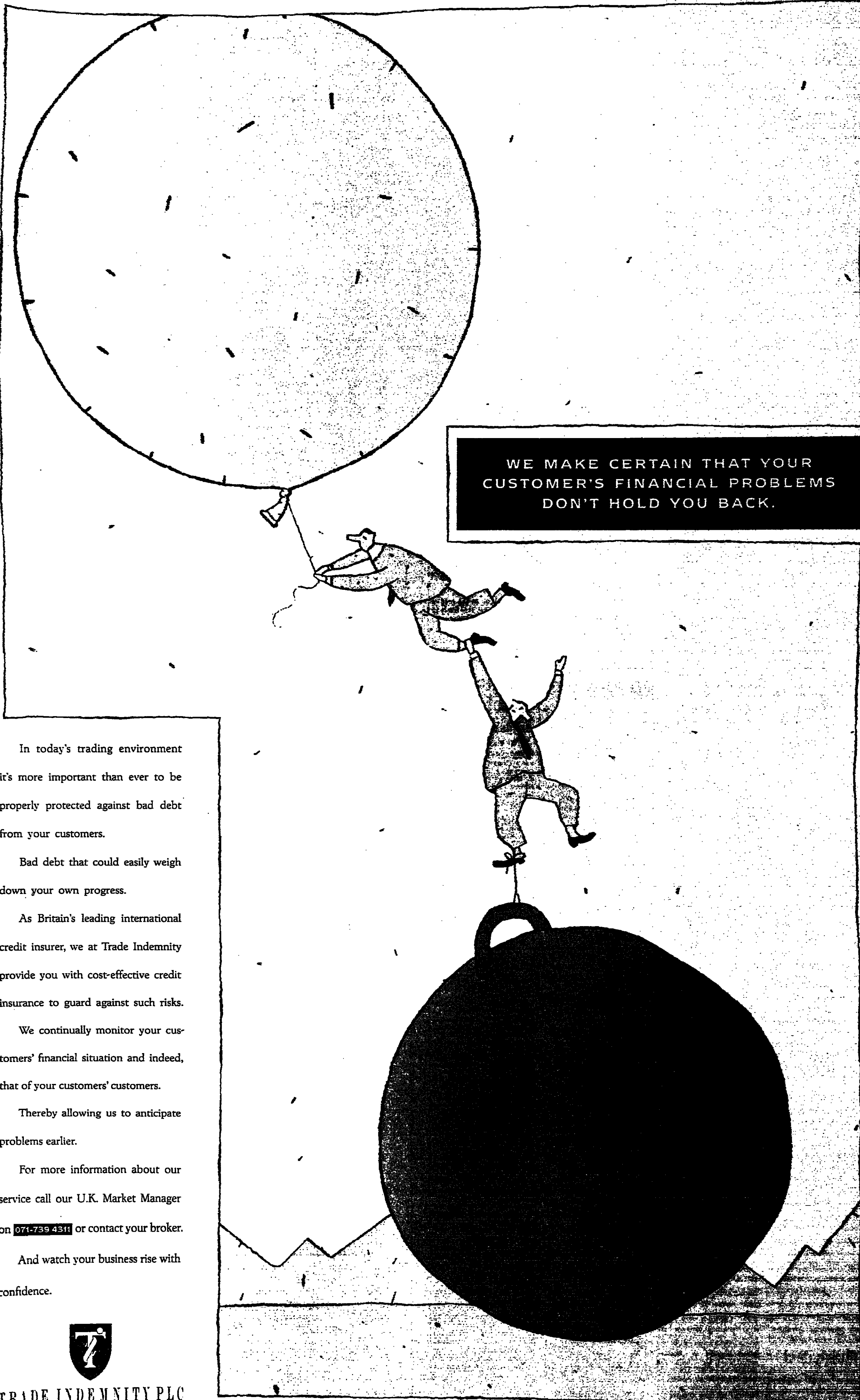
ROBERT Maxwell's appointment of Smith New Court as his corporate broker, and that firm's subsequent recruitment of top-rated publishing analyst Terry Connor from James Capel, left a vacancy at Capel which has been filled internally. Neil Blackley, ranked number one in Exel's league table of agencies analysts, and Quentin Price — who switched to the agencies team from being head of options research at Capel a month ago — will jointly assume the publishing mantle, while continuing with their coverage of advertising agencies. "We will be cutting down on a number of the smaller agency stocks — about half a dozen — but not necessarily advertising agencies," said Blackley. "More stocks, like Michael Peters Group, have dropped significantly in market capitalization since we no longer do any business in them." Capel still researches publishing, printing, paper and packaging stocks for the firm, after about 20 years, and Blackley says this will ensure continuity.

To highlight the launch next month of *Platinum 1990*, Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, will display a rather special wedding dress — made from platinum, or "super-thin platinum foil." Valued at about £300,000, instructions with the dress include: "Ironing the costume is strictly prohibited" and "Position the costume beyond the reach of spectators."

Carol Leonard



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# Laundering crackdown pressures institutions

By Quentin Cowley  
Home Affairs  
Correspondent

BRITISH banks and building societies are likely to have to keep more detailed records of customers and transactions as part of a planned crackdown on the estimated \$85 billion of drugs profits laundered each year in Europe and the US.

This follows the publication of a report on money laundering compiled by banking and law enforcement officials from the Group of Seven nations and eight other countries, including Australia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.

The illicit drugs trade in the US and Europe is producing an estimated annual turnover of more than \$120 billion for traffickers, with only about \$35 billion being consumed in costs.

The most significant of the report's 40 recommendations is that the international community should not follow the example of Australia and the US in imposing a legal duty on financial institutions to report to a central monitoring unit every transaction above a certain limit.

It urged instead that countries should adopt the kind of reporting system pioneered by Britain under the 1986 Drug Trafficking Offences Act,



Waddington: allows officials to seize suspect cash which only obliges institutions to report suspicious transactions.

The report, whose recommendations are technically non-binding, but are seen to have a strong "moral" force, also called on all states to make laundering a separate criminal offence. Outlawed in Britain under the 1986 Act, laundering is also an offence

real identity of customers before setting up accounts and should keep better records of transactions.

It is understood the British delegation played a key role in thwarting US demands for mandatory reporting of transactions, pointing out that the American system was linked to more comprehensive money-laundering legislation than existed elsewhere.

The Treasury, which welcomed the report, said that it believed the British approach to be the "most cost effective and efficient." It added: "It will continue to be so as long as it enjoys the active support and co-operation of our major financial institutions".

None of the report's recommendations imply further legislative action by the Government, whose tough stance on drugs issues means that it will shortly be able to ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention on the illicit narcotics trade. Only four countries have ratified so far.

Last month, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, unveiled a new counter-measure when he announced that police and Customs would be given the power to seize sums of cash at border points where they suspected the money stemmed from drugs trafficking.

## Loss gives way to £2m profit for Hawtal

By Philip Pangalos

HAWTAL Whiting Holdings, the automotive design and engineering consultancy, revealed pre-tax profits of £2.17 million in the year to end-December, compared with a loss of £862,000 last time.

Group turnover advanced by 61 per cent to £49.7 million following worldwide expansion.

Earnings per share stood at 16.9p (11.4) and the dividend has been raised to 4p (0.1p) for the year.

Interest payments rose from £935,000 to £1.78 million, with gearing at about 49 per cent. There is an exceptional debit of £258,000 due to a prior adjustment relating to 1985.

Mr John Whitecross, the chairman, said the extensive measures taken over the last two years to return the group to profit have been successful. The build-up of volume business with new customers and markets in many parts of the world was beginning to reduce exposure to any single market.

Mr Whitecross added that, as in 1989, some orders were deferred early this year, calling for a reduction in manning. However, the order book is well in advance of this time last year. The shares climbed 8p to 183p.

## Great Southern reaches £3.54m

By Martin Waller

A COMBINATION of a lower-than-usual death rate and higher-than-expected borrowings kept pre-tax profits at Great Southern Group, the undertaker, to £3.54 million in the year to end-December, against £3.02 million taken after £348,000 from exceptional land sales last time.

A final dividend of 5.4p increases the total by 1p to 8p. Mr Eric Spencer, the deputy chairman and chief executive, said that mortality rates had increased considerably since the end of the year, and the group had seen further margin improvements as a result of acquisitions made previously.

The death rate had risen by

5 per cent nationally, but Great Southern's volumes had risen by 8 per cent because of its concentration in London and the South.

Interest payments had shot up to £1.37 million last year, from £838,000, and borrowings were now just short of £12 million, representing gearing of 107 per cent. Difficult stock market conditions for smaller companies last year had meant that £2 million of deferred consideration had had to be funded in cash rather than by a share placing.

There were almost £3 million worth of property disposals in the pipeline, delayed by the property market slump.

## Miskin edges ahead despite turnover slip

MISKIN Group, the contracting, property development and plant hire company that came to the Unlisted Securities Market last April, lifted pre-tax profits from £523,000 to £559,000 in the year to end-January.

Turnover slipped from £7.02 million to £6.8 million. Earnings per share fell from 6.9p to 4.5p, with adjusted earnings reduced from 5.1p to 4.5p. There is a final dividend of 1.375p (nil).

Mr Jeffrey Goodman, the

chairman, said that current prospects were favourable. With a considerable amount of work already contracted, turnover in the construction and building division should rise substantially. However, slow residential property sales had affected the division's profit levels, and would continue to do so in this first half.

Interest payments rose from £94,000 to £158,000. There is an extraordinary loss of £45,000. The shares were unchanged at 36p.

## Liberty beats the squeeze

By Gillian Bowditch

Liberty, the retail group with a Regent Street flagship store, is bearing up well despite the fall in consumer spending. Pre-tax profits for the year to January rose from £6.45 million to £7.42 million on sales of £85.2 million, up from £72.7 million.

Earnings per share rose from 24.4p to 26.3p and the final dividend is 4.55p making 5.95p, up from 5.04p.

Liberty Japan, a joint venture with Seibu department stores, reported strong profits in the first full year of trading. In Britain retail profits fell by £1 million to £1.9 million but the wholesaling division increased profits by £1.3 million to £4.6 million. Demand for Liberty fabric is still strong.

The US loss rose from £193,000 to £203,000. Mr Harry Webber, Liberty's chairman, said prudent management and the overall strength of the group's business make it less vulnerable to difficult trading conditions.

He said: "The level of retail sales and orders in the wholesale and printing companies in the opening weeks of the current trading year show an encouraging improvement over the same period last year."

The voting shares were unchanged at 435p and the non-voting shares were also static at 225p.

## Standard ordered to pay £2.5m in Tokyo back tax

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

BRITAIN'S Standard Chartered Bank has been fined about 650 million yen (£2.5 million) in back taxes by the Tokyo tax authorities in connection with an undeclared sum of money earned from selling a plot of land in the city more than two years ago.

However, the bank says that it did nothing underhand, and a spokesman yesterday denied charges by Tokyo tax officials, reported prominently in the Japanese media, that the penalty had been levied because Standard Chartered tried to conceal \$9 million received from the sale.

The bank also said that although the fine has only just come to public light, it made provision for the payment in its 1989 accounts.

Newspapers in Japan quoted tax officials as saying that Standard Chartered sold 6,150 sq m of residential land in central Tokyo to Haseko Corp, a construction company that specializes in apartment blocks, for more than ¥20 billion in July 1987.

However, under limits imposed by Tokyo local government to dampen the capital's land price boom, the sale price of that plot of land was capped at ¥18.9 billion.

Tax officials allege that Standard Chartered and Haseko drew up a contract saying that Haseko paid only that

figure, but the construction company then paid the balance of \$9 million, separately from a secret fund.

The Yomiuri newspaper, Japan's biggest-selling broadsheet, said: "According to a Haseko source, Haseko actually bought the land for ¥20.41 billion. But the face price of the contract was reduced to ¥18.9 billion, which was the maximum legal price. Haseko paid the balance to Standard Chartered Bank by a back-door route."

Tax officials said that Standard Chartered failed to pay tax on the \$9 million, but a bank official said yesterday that this was because it had thought that it was not liable for tax in Japan, not because it was trying to do anything tricky.

He said that the bank received the \$9 million from Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, which was willing to pay this premium for the right to handle the land sale. That Samuel Montagu was later reimbursed with \$9 million by Haseko was a matter between Samuel Montagu and Haseko.

Although Standard Chartered had received the money, the route had been an indirect one. The bank had not considered it liable for tax in Japan, but the tax office had deemed it income resulting from the land sale.

## Prague company move

Prague CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S parliament has approved laws permitting private enterprise and the establishment of joint stock companies.

The private enterprise law stipulates that anyone can establish a business without

seeking official permission. There are no limits on the number of employees or capital involved in a firm.

It also permits the "reasonable" participation of foreign capital in the Czechoslovak economy.

(Reuters)

## ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 1,185	CU 980	Lloyds 5,032	Seas 2,283
Abbey Nat 6,255	Cookson 1,455	Lloyds Abb 130	Sedgwick 306
Aldi-Lyons 1,548	Courtaulds 678	Lorho 780	Shell 3,390
Amesbury 1,553	Deputy 60	Lucas 285	Sabco 40
ASDA 11,458	Dixons 619	Macpower 325	Scotch 386
AB Foods 68	ECC 343	N&S 3,324	Smith & N 1,481
Argus 678	Enterprise 148	Maxwell Cm 311	St. Beech 1,882
BVA 2,440	Ferranti 4,707	M&P Group 437	Do Lys 82
BET 6,773	Fluoro 735	MEPC 352	Smith WH 112
BTR 1,822	FR 1,258	Midland 783	Smiths Ind 3,083
BNT 1,032	Gen Acc 285	Mat West 1,594	STC 2,283
Barclays 3,244	GEI 3,140	Nest 2,644	Stan Chart 305
Bass 479	Globe Inv 1,712	Nth Food 413	Storhouse 1,259
Beazer 474	Globe Inv 1,712	P&O 1,027	Sun Life 12
Bentley Int 101	Grain 1,080	Pearson 349	T & N 318
BICC 1,440	Grain 1,080	Pileston 3,058	TI Group 638
Blue Circle 1,384	Grand Mat 1,775	Poly Pack 1,551	Tarmac 641
BOD 1,184	GRS 'A' 175	Prudential 807	Tate & Lyle 90
Boco 1,912	GRS 576	Race 2,812	Taylor Wd 2,334
BPS 1,013	GRN 1,322	Royal Yalc 730	TBS 1,413
Br Aero 576	Guinness 1,777	Rix Hovis 386	Tesco 2,175
Br Airways 2,587	Heron 'A' 259	Rank 303	Thames Wtr 1,016
Br Comm 1,408	Hanson 13,232	RAC 176	Thorn EMI 318
Br Gas 3,144	Do Wts 307	Redland 143	Tristral 1,305
Br Land 168	H & C 166	Road 1,386	THF 1,528
Br Petrol 6,256	Hawker 645	Raptors 322	Ultamer 1,638
Br Steel 5,852	Hilldown 1,218	RMC GP 358	Unigate 409
Br Telecom 1,534	ICI 1,059	RITZ 520	Unilever 857
Bent 1,210	ICI 1,059	R-Royce 298	United Bt 2,217
Burmah 383	Inchcape 982	Rothman 'P' 476	Und News 39
Burton 695	Kingfisher 1,051	Royal Bank 641	Wellcome 296
C&W 1,521	Lease 643	Royal Ind 585	Whitbread 571
Carbury 629	Ladbroke 629	Saatchi 750	Williams 1,085
Cator 91	Land Sec 434	Sainsbury 2,795	Wills Fab 285
Carlton 2,877	Laporte 47	Scot & N 2,488	Wimpey G 302
Costs 3,754	LBS 436		

## RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	RECENT ISSUES
ABN Leasing (125p) 116	Pitman Mining 88
ADD Group (14p) 18 1/2	CS Higgs 108
Admiral New Euro (100p) 98 1/2	Slam Select 99
Argos Plc 201 1/2	Sutton Water 135
Beta Global Emery (100p) 38	TR High Inc (220p) 105 1/2
Bentley Higgs (1p) 24 1/2	Torday & Carlisle (155p) 151
Buckingham NW 78 1/2	Venturi Int Inv 10
Citybond 215	Willsboro Brew (70p) 68 1/2
Courtaulds Textiles 260 1/2	See main listing for Water shares
Deleha Op NW 348	
Eurochem 128 1/2	RIGHTS ISSUES
F&C German 120	Alphameric N/P 4 1/2
Fastforward 180	Bicplan N/P 35
First Ireland (100p) 91	Cash Energy N/P 48
French Prop Int 54	Cranhorn N/P 35
Gartmore Emery Pacific 80 1/2	Kingdome N/P 1 1/2
Gibson Smith 129	March Op N/P 8
Henderson Rightland (100p) 92	Metallurgy N/P 22
Man Currie Euro (100p) 109	Pickwick N/P 68 1/2
Midland Right 132 1/2	Templeton Egg N/P
Novelty (100p) 28 1/2	Issue price in brackets



## Tandon introduce the computer that doesn't add up. (A laptop that costs less than a desktop.)

It doesn't take a genius to know that a laptop usually costs more than its equivalent desktop. Yet at £2499, the Tandon 386 laptop is over £100 cheaper than the Tandon PAC 386sx desktop.

Despite its miniaturised price, however, the 386 laptop is certainly no dummy.

In addition to a 40MB hard disk, it has the same remarkably retentive memory as its desk-bound brother - 1MB RAM, expandable to 5MB. And the same speedy i686MHz

386sx processor. But although big in capacity, the 386 laptop is impressively small in size.

Weighing in at a very slender 14.5lbs it's particularly handy should your work involve missions overseas.

Other features you'll appreciate are its 3 hour battery life, a high clarity VGA screen, and an AT keyboard with 12 function keys.

If, however, you find the 386 rather too powerful for your needs, there's the 20MB 286 laptop, with

an equally attractive price tag of just £1999.

And the catch? There isn't one. All Tandon portables come, dare we say, with no strings attached.

For more information on Tandon portables and free literature for the Which Computer Show (24th - 27th April 1990) write to Tandon plc, FREEPOST, Hunt End, Redditch, Warwickshire B97 5XJ. Or call us on (0527) 656650.

Name  Position  T20 ALT

Company

Address

Telephone

Number of employees  Number of PCs installed



## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Sting in abolishing certificates

From E. H. Rackley

Sir, A number of points have been made, in your columns and elsewhere, relating to problems that will arise if the proposed abolition of share certificates takes place. May I poke another stick in this little hornet's nest?

Should I die before I sell them, the person turning over my personal papers will find two documents indicating my ownership of 660 shares in British Gas. These shares can thus be valued and added to the rest of my vast fortune for taxation and distribution, and their ownership relinquished or transferred according to circumstance, with the minimum of trouble.

If they succeed in abolishing share certificates, the Stock Exchange will presumably be prepared to run a computer check upon notification of the death of any potential investor, man, woman or child, in the country, in order to ascertain whether or not a stock holding in that name exists.

The Inland Revenue is likely to require some such enquiry to be obligatory, and it will certainly be necessary in the interests of beneficiaries of

any estate. The Stock Exchange will need only to distinguish the holdings of John Smith from those of his son, or grandson, of the same name and recorded at the same address.

Inclusion in the computer of the investor's National Insurance number will take care of that, provided he lived most of the time in this country and had a number; and, if he did have one, that someone can remember what it was... all this assumes, of course, that what they have in mind is a centralised and consolidated register of all companies and shareholders; if not, the brow does begin to furrow a little.

It is not for fun that British Gas, on the back of these unnecessary pieces of paper, feels it worth while to print in large letters "This share certificate is a valuable document which you should keep in a safe place" and to say very much the same thing twice on the front.

Yours faithfully,  
E. H. RACKLEY,  
23 Redland Close,  
Bromsgrove, Worcs.  
April 12.

## Taxing times

From Mr R. V. Fox

Sir, Tax due on all my income as a basic rate taxpayer pensioner is withheld from my occupational pension.

In filing my P60 for 1989-90, just received, I compared the tax taken with that paid 40 years earlier in 1949-50.

The amount taken has multiplied by a factor of 140. When I look at my gross income in the same two years, I find the multiplier for that is but 51.

My allowances now, as then, are those of a married man, the only difference being that I now have a small mortgage interest relief.

Were City analysts serious when they suggested tax rates should have been increased in the March Budget?

Yours sincerely,  
RAYMOND V. FOX,  
Lanterns,  
15 Braywick Road,  
Maidenhead,  
Berkshire.  
April 11.

Letters to *The Times Business and Finance* section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

## Water tariffs

From R. D. Winyard

Sir, In the article on water meter trials (*Business News*, April 16), Mr David Gadbury, of Southern Water, offers no sympathy for pool owners, or, by implication, for gardeners on the Isle of Wight.

He rightly comments: "They must pay the true cost

of water." However, he omits to say that Southern Water's regional water tariff, excluding sewerage charges, is 31.4p per cubic metre, which is presumably the true cost.

At that level of charge, few pool owners or gardeners would object.

What does cause concern is the manipulation of, and experimentation with, tariffs

during the trials, and that the consumer has to pay through the nose while they continue. Yours faithfully,

R. D. WINYARD,  
Woodview,  
Youngwoods Way,  
Alverstoke Garden Village,  
Sandown,  
Isle of Wight.  
April 17.

## INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

## Switching savings into shares

By Colin Nairn, Economics Correspondent



Inherent disadvantages: Andrew Hugh Smith

THE Government and the City yesterday blamed each other for the difficulties in expanding share ownership beyond what it has been over the past decade.

Mr John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, urged the City to make share dealing faster, cheaper and simpler, but Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman of London's International Stock Exchange, called for a shift in economic fundamentals, requiring changes in Government objectives and policy.

Both were addressing an Institute of Economic Affairs Conference - Wider Ownership, the Next Steps.

Mr Hugh Smith identified the high level of home ownership - a key policy of Mrs Thatcher's Government - as being "directly in competition" with the goal of wider share ownership.

Another obstacle was the fixed interest deposits offered by banks and building societies, which were very attractive compared with returns on ordinary shares, particularly after adjustment for risk.

To switch savings flows into shares the Government would have to alter the relative value of returns on investments and recognise the trade-off between individual property ownership and share ownership, Mr Hugh Smith said.

It would also have to appreciate that high interest rates tend to favour the low-risk,

deposit-type investment. The political challenge, he said, was to find a way of making the value of the pound, "if this is not done, interest rates will remain high and the hurdle for returns on equity investment, risk-adjusted, will be insurmountably attractive."

Equally important was the need to "remove fiscal imbalances, which have already destroyed individual ownership of British industry to an unacceptable extent."

At least two-thirds of industry was owned by private individuals in the late 1950s. Today, less than 20 per cent of domestic equities was held by private individuals.

While tax relief on mortgage interest payments favoured home ownership, elements of the Capital Gains Tax were still seen to penalise share ownership compared with other forms of investment.

Mr Hugh Smith said that unless the skewing of savings flows away from share ownership was changed, "any drive to achieve wider share ownership will be fighting against inherent disadvantages."

Mr Redwood said the share markets had to become "more accessible" and "less confined by excessive regulation."

"It is vital that the cost of transacting a share deal be kept low to avoid discouraging the small shareholder," he said, citing the £17.50 cost of executing a small bargain in London - nearly four times

the cost in Paris. Mr Redwood said the planned switch to the ISE in 1991 - a computerised, paperless clearing system - had to provide cheap and efficient settlement and not impose any disincentives on the small private shareholder.

London's come could be cut by computerising back offices and moving some activities from expensive City buildings to cheaper premises, he suggested. The Securities and Investments Board, the financial services watchdog, also had to push house to block on overvalued and overpriced IPOs.

The Government's main policies of privatisation and encouraging share ownership had led to one in four adults holding shares, up from one in 15 in 1979.

Mr Redwood said the Government's actions to encourage share ownership had been so successful that they had created a "major social issue." But he also saw a huge business opportunity in share ownership that could be small under risk for individuals.

He noted that wider ownership provided greater understanding for the large fund London markets and that small shareholders were often long-term investors.

It could reduce political tensions originating from allegations of the City with rich men's casino and no individual club by showing it to be the "people's capital market."

## City 'must seek to restore trust in institutions'

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE chairman of the International Stock Exchange called on the City to urgently seek solutions to the problem of how to restore investors' trust in institutional investors.

The alternative, said Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, was that solutions, perhaps advisory ones, would be forced on the City by government intervention.

While it was not easy to identify the extent of industry's distrust of its institutional investors, "we can be sure there is a problem," he told the conference in Westminster.

"It cannot be healthy that the gap of understanding, the level of distrust of the City and particularly of the investor community, should continue at this high level."

He listed the familiar complaints of investors letting down management of the companies they owned, of their "short-termism" and their obsession with maximising shareholder value.

While coming out firmly against moves to restrict takeover bids, Mr Hugh Smith said that if the complaints about institutional investors' short-termism were justified,

it would be a "serious charge." He suggested the underlying problem could be that the role of the institutional investor had changed by the importance of the individual shareholder had declined.

Institutional investors now held about 70 per cent of shares in industry.

"They have, therefore, become owners rather than investors."

But he said ownership carried obligations as well as privilege, and failure to recognise the obligations was likely to lead to pressure for intervention, probably by the Government.

He proposed that one approach could be for managers in industry to seek to put aside the buyer and seller relationship and cultivate more of a "partnership relationship" with their institutional investors.

This might involve accepting that the institutions could become insiders for a time and that this would be part of the price. But it would allow investment managers to reach more informed conclusions about the long-term value of their investment and develop greater loyalty.

## Hong Kong may go it alone over airport plan

From Luke Ys, Hong Kong

THE Hong Kong Government reaffirmed its commitment to the HK\$127 billion (£10 billion) airport plan amid growing concern that the project could be torpedoed by Peking.

Sir Piers Jacobs, the Financial Secretary, said he had yet to convince China of the viability of a new airport, but was confident that Hong Kong could finance the development regardless of Chinese support.

"If it came to the pinch we

can still finance it with our own accumulated fiscal reserves," he said.

Hong Kong's reserves of HK\$71 billion will go a long way towards financing the airport, which will cost HK\$35 billion, and the road, transport and utility link, which would cost another HK\$42 billion. The HK\$50 billion port expansion plan, however, would have to be phased out if private funds were not forthcoming, said Sir Piers.

## WORLD MARKETS

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
The World (free)	7123	0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4
SAFE	136.1	0.4	-15.6	0.6	-11.4
(free)	1241.4	1.0	-20.3	0.7	-15.4
Europe	127.4	1.1	-20.8	0.7	-15.6
(free)	734.6	-1.0	-3.4	-0.7	-3.6
Nth America	158.4	-1.0	-3.4	-0.5	-3.4
Nordic	505.6	-0.2	-6.0	-0.2	-4.1
(free)	1487.4	-0.4	-3.8	0.1	-3.9
Pacific	237.4	-0.4	1.0	0.1	0.6
Far East	2783.6	2.5	-29.8	1.8	-22.3
Australia	4025.4	2.7	-30.4	1.9	-22.8
Austria	302.2	-0.5	-13.0	-0.5	-1.2
Belgium	2089.0	-2.4	4.6	-1.5	-4.0
Canada	915.8	-0.1	-7.0	0.4	-7.6
Denmark	507.3	-1.8	-15.5	-1.5	-13.5
Finland	1335.5	0.0	1.5	0.5	0.3
(free)	102.0	-0.9	-11.8	-0.5	-11.3
France	140.1	-0.9	-8.0	-0.6	-5.9
Germany	839.0	-0.5	3.8	0.1	3.1
Hong Kong	961.8	-1.4	4.8	-0.9	5.8
Italy	2370.7	0.2	6.9	0.8	8.9
Japan	391.7	-1.3	1.6	-0.7	0.7
Netherlands	4224.8	2.9	-31.5	2.0	-23.7
New Zealand	839.7	-1.1	-4.8	-0.6	-4.2
Norway	87.1	0.2	-15.5	0.3	-11.7
(free)	1915.1	-1.8	12.9	-1.2	13.8
Singapore	285.2	-1.4	13.5	-0.9	14.4
Spain	1894.6	-0.7	-3.0	-0.3	-2.4
Sweden	216.8	-0.3	-8.4	0.0	-8.5
(free)	1613.6	0.0	-8.0	0.4	-7.8
Switzerland	281.5	-0.1	-4.4	0.3	-4.2
(free)	858.4	-0.7	-6.1	-0.7	-6.1
UK	131.7	-0.8	-5.7	-0.8	-7.7
USA	847.5	-1.1	-10.2	-1.1	-10.2
	488.1	-0.7	-6.2	-0.1	-6.2

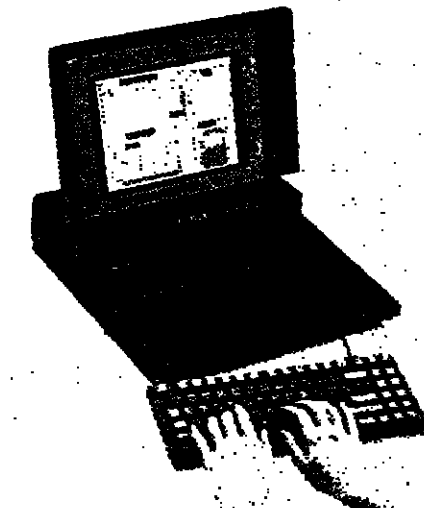
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When recognition is critical, it's black and white.

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Such innovation is one result of Hitachi's advanced micron-level technology and incorporated in the HL500. It assures exceptional clarity for text and complex graphics and fully supports VGA software. Hitachi computers feature state-of-the-art LSIs and VLSIs made by Hitachi.



Whatever the product, from laptops to super computers, from home appliances to Factory Automation systems, Hitachi has the same philosophy. This philosophy goes beyond incorporating over 40,000 patented technologies. With the vast scope of its expertise, Hitachi can design each feature, major and minor, with every other feature in mind. The result is in-depth integration, guaranteeing the special quality which is the hallmark of Hitachi.

\* STN = Super-Twisted Nematic;  
CFL = Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp





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# Hungary will rush in reforms

By Colin Narborough  
Economics Correspondent

DEMOCRATIC Forum, the centre-right party, set to form Hungary's first freely-elected government for 45 years, faces the daunting task of restoring a market economy.

Mr József Antall, Forum's leader, who is likely to become prime minister in a few weeks, is bent on moving fast towards a capitalist system after the decades of command economics. However much the European Community balks at the idea, Mr Antall also wants full Hungarian membership of the EC eventually.

Privatization, set in train under the old regime, is a priority. Mr Antall has pledged to speed up the process of putting industry in private hands. After his election victory, he made clear that this process would have to be "controlled" saying Britain's experience could not be compared with what was needed in Hungary. But there will be no foot-dragging. The proportion of state ownership is to be cut from 90 per cent to 30 per cent by 1992.

Extracting the economy from the tangle of trade links with Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic alliance, presents problems, but Mr Antall wants to maintain good relations with Moscow. Inflation, running at an annual rate of 25 per cent, threatens to create economic uncertainty. Forum plans for strict budgetary discipline, an alien concept to Communist economies. Without establishing confidence in



Now for the hard part: Hungary's József Antall celebrates Forum's election victory

their currency, Hungarians fear they will be unable to attract investment.

But the first task facing a new government will be determining the true state of the country's finances. Its hard-currency debt is estimated to exceed \$21 billion — the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

For all its innovations, the economy is in a sorry state and is having to find \$3 billion a year to service foreign debt. Annual exports last year totalled only \$6 billion.

Mr János Bokor, the outgoing trade minister, told British journalists recently: "Our problem is that we need capital, but are having to export capital." Hungary would have to repay debts

while rebuilding its economy from its own resources. Joint ventures with the West would be necessary, but these have proved disappointing in the past. More than a thousand already concluded have only brought in \$500-600 million, excluding a couple of major projects. The concern is that many foreign investors have been using the tax breaks and legal gaps without bringing any benefit to Hungary.

But the protection against world market conditions once afforded Hungarian industry is fast disappearing. Inefficient industries now face the chill winds of competition.

Comecon trade allowed huge surpluses to accumulate which were tantamount to interest-free loans to the purchasing country. This system kept Hungarian manufacturers' order books full, but left the country lending 1.5 billion rubles to its Comecon partners.

To safeguard against Hungarian companies filling their order books with East bloc business, Budapest has restricted licences for such trade. From next year trade with the Russians will be settled in dollars.

Dr Zoltán Eörsi, professor of economics at Budapest's Karl Marx University, is sceptical about Hungary's chances of overcoming its economic crisis quickly. He considers it crucial to boost export earnings and create the confidence in government to boost private initiatives.

## Esops and the Finance Bill: James Cornford proposes changes

# Employee share owners given encouraging signs

AMONG the proposals in the Budget speech to be incorporated in the Finance Bill is an important concession designed to encourage employee share ownership. Roll-over relief on capital gains tax is to be extended to owners of shares in companies who sell them to Esops.

This could encourage the proprietors of private companies with succession problems to sell shares to employees and remove a strong bias in favour of selling out to a quoted company in a share for share deal.

The effect of the concession, however, will be limited because it applies only to the statutory Esop created by the Finance Act 1989 and not to the "case law" Esops created before 1989 and since.

The Finance Act 1989 gave statutory backing to the important principle that voluntary contributions to an Esop are tax deductible. But the statutory Esop was so hedged with conditions and restrictions that it was greeted with disbelief by promoters of the Esop idea.

The conditions to which the consultants object include restrictions on the eligibility of companies, requirements as to the trustees and beneficiaries of an Esop, limitations on the type of shares involved, strict time limits on the application

of funds and the distribution of shares and so forth.

The effect of these conditions is to limit severely the discretion of employers in the design of an Esop and to diminish their control of it once established. Since most employers and their advisers see Esops as a more flexible and powerful extension of incentive schemes, it makes good sense for them to maintain control of the trust and to

pension legislation. The statutory Esop requires that the trust's shares be acquired promptly and be distributed within seven years to individual employees, with dividend and voting rights, rather than credited to accounts and held by the trust until the employee leaves or retires.

It is directed to individual benefit. It provides no guarantee that employee shareholding will survive the issue

duced in the Companies Act 1989, to provide the necessary framework.

Meanwhile, however, the analogy with pensions may be worth pushing in the current Finance Bill. Tax reliefs to encourage investment in the employee's own company should be treated on a par with investment in a pension fund. At least employees should not lose significant tax benefits by choosing one form of investment rather than the other.

This would have a bearing on the treatment for capital gains tax purposes of shares which may be held by an Esop for up to seven years before distribution to employees.

Similarly there seems to be no good reason why Esops should be limited to working with 1978 Act profit-sharing schemes (Employers contributions) and not approved savings-related share option schemes (additional voluntary contributions) which are also available to all employees on similar terms.

James Cornford is Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research and has just published *A Stake in the Company: Shareholding, Ownership and ESOPs*, which is available from IPPR, 18 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6LB, for £10 including postage.

## ● Tax reliefs to help investment in a worker's own company should be similar to those for pension funds ●

be able to discriminate among employees in the distribution of benefits.

For those, like myself, who see Esops as a device for transforming the ownership and control of companies in the long run, the deficiencies of the statutory Esop are different. Some, if not all, of the restrictions are welcome. Particularly important is the requirement that shares should be distributed to all employees on similar terms.

The problems with the statutory Esop are political or constitutional rather than fiscal, and reflect its origins in schemes for wider share ownership as against the US original which grew out of

of the shares, nor for any effective representation of employees in the government of the company.

What is needed is a trust that can continue to hold a substantial block of shares on behalf of the employees and vote them on their instructions. Participation through ownership is a possible alternative to other forms of representation in the government of companies and ought not to be dependent on the complexities and timing of tax reliefs.

It would be difficult now to recast the statutory Esop and we shall have to look to other means, such as the new partnership company intro-

## Law Report April 19 1990 Court of Appeal

# Diplomatic passports and exemption from immigration controls

*Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Bagga and Others*. Before Lord Justice Gledhill, Lord Justice Gledhill and Lord Justice Leggatt (Judgment April 11).

In order for a person to be a member of a diplomatic mission so as to be exempt from immigration control under section 8(3) of the Immigration Act 1971 it was not necessary that his membership of the mission should have been notified to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

It followed that persons arriving in the United Kingdom to take up diplomatic appointments prior to notification having been given to the Foreign Office, were not subject to immigration control on entry and the placing of an open date stamp by an immigration officer, or alternatively, no notice giving or refusing leave to enter within 12 hours of the conclusion of the proceedings, did not have the effect of conferring indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in appeals by the Secretary of State for the Home Department against a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on April 25, 1988 that the four respondents, Kewal Krishnan Bagga, Rakshak and Anil Bist, Chandrakabhai and Vasudevan Rastogi, and Sushil Kishor, had indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Prior to a further amendment which was not in force at the time of these appeals section 8(3) of the Immigration Act

1971, as amended, provided: "The provisions of this Act relating to those who are not [British Citizens] shall not apply to any person so long as he is a member of a mission (within the meaning of the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964), a person who is a member of the family and forms part of the household of such a member, or a person otherwise entitled to the like immunity from jurisdiction as is conferred by the Act on a diplomatic agent."

Article 39 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (incorporated into the law of the UK by the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964) provides: "Every person entitled to privileges and immunities shall enjoy them from the moment he enters the territory of the receiving state on proceeding to take up his post or, if already in its territory, from the moment his appointment is notified to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or such other ministry as may be agreed."

"When the functions of a person enjoying privileges and immunities have come to an end, such privileges and immunities shall normally cease at the moment when he leaves the country, or on expiry of a reasonable period in which to do so."

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, Mr Paul Stinchcombe and Mr Nicholas Blake for Bagga; Mr Owen Davies for Bist, Rastogi and Kishor.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER said that Kewal Krishnan Bagga was an Indian citizen who first

arrived in the United Kingdom on November 13, 1981 to take up employment with the Indian High Commission on a diplomatic passport.

His appointment was notified to the Foreign Office on November 25, 1981. His employment ceased on July 8, 1985 and on September 14, 1985 he returned to India.

On April 13, 1986 he returned to the UK on an ordinary passport which was dated stamped. On a subsequent visit to the UK he was refused leave to enter and it was alleged that his leave to enter in April 1986 had been obtained by deception.

The respondents, Rakshak and Anil Bist, Indian citizens, arrived in the UK on April 27, 1984, with their father who had been appointed to the Indian High Commission. Their passports were date stamped. No notification of their father's appointment was ever given to the Foreign Office.

On May 11, 1987, after their father's appointment had terminated, they applied for confirmation that they had indefinite leave to remain in the UK which was refused.

Mr and Mrs Rastogi were lawfully in this country on limited leave when Mrs Rastogi took up an appointment as a clerk/typist at the Singapore High Commission and, on application, her passport, and that of her husband, was endorsed that while she was so employed she was not subject to any condition or limitation on the period of permitted stay in the UK.

She was a citizen of Singapore and her husband a citizen of Sri Lanka. In May 1985, while still

so employed, Mrs Rastogi was out of the UK for a short time and on return her passport was date stamped.

On November 24, 1987 her solicitors sought confirmation that Mrs Rastogi left her employment both her passport and that of her husband would be endorsed that neither was subject to any limit on their stay. That was refused.

Mrs Kakkar, an Indian citizen, arrived in the UK on the UK on August 26, 1978 and her husband who had been appointed to the Indian High Commission. Their passports were date stamped.

Her husband's appointment was notified to the Foreign Office on August 26, 1978 and terminated on September 14, 1982. On September 30, 1987, her solicitors sought confirmation that she was permitted to stay without conditions. That was refused.

It was abundantly clear from article 39 of the Convention that immunities would be enjoyed on entry and that it was only when a person already in the country was appointed that immunities depended on notification.

The concern in the present case, however, was with exemption from immigration control. That was dependent and dependent only on whether the person concerned "is a member of a mission" or "is a member of the family and forms part of the household of such a member or is a person otherwise entitled to the like immunity from jurisdiction as is conferred by that Act on a diplomatic agent."

Approaching the matter de

novo his Lordship would have had no hesitation in concluding that, as a matter of construction, someone arriving to take up a post or, if already in the country, on becoming employed, was exempt from immigration control from the moment of entry or commencement of employment whether or not there had been any notification to the Foreign Office.

His Lordship looked at the authorities beginning with *R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Teja* ([1971] 2 QB 274), a decision of the Divisional Court, where the applicant was claiming to be the head of a diplomatic mission. In that case Lord Parker, Lord Chief Justice, said:

"As I see it, it is fundamental to the claim of immunity by reason of being a diplomatic agent that that diplomatic agent should have been in some form notified or received by this country."

It was to be noted that Lord Parker was considering the position of someone who was claiming to be the head of a special mission. That claim had failed on its facts.

It was true that Lord Parker's decision depended as well on his conclusion that notification and acceptance was required before such a person could be entitled to diplomatic immunity under the 1964 Act but his Lordship did not regard it as going further.

In the face of articles 1 and 39 of the Convention it could not be contended that if an embassy chose to employ a secretary already in this country anything more was required than notification before that person was

entitled to immunities.

In *R v Lamberth Justices, Ex parte Yusuf* ([1985] Crim L R 510), the Divisional Court dealt with an applicant who, like Teja, also sought to set up diplomatic immunity in habeas corpus proceedings.

In that case Lord Justice Watkins said: "I would add on this point, with regard to article 39, that in agreement with what was argued in *Teja*, the article is procedural in nature. It provides, it seems to me, at most, some temporary immunity between entry and notification to a person who is without doubt a diplomat."

His Lordship respectfully disagreed. On the wording of the article he was unable to see how it could be regarded as procedural or as affording merely temporary immunity between entry and notification to someone who was without doubt a diplomat.

His Lordship reviewed subsequent authorities which had followed *Teja* and *Yusuf* and concluded that the decisions on those two cases, although plainly right on the facts, were wrong on the point that immunity under the 1964 Act depended on notification and acceptance.

His Lordship considered the effect of his conclusion on the various respondents and held that the appeal of Bagga, Rastogi and Kakkar should be allowed. His Lordship next considered the effect of a date stamp placed on a passport in the mistaken belief that the other respondent, Mr Bagga, was exempt from control.

Section 4(1) of the Immigra-

tion Act 1971 provided that the power to give leave to enter had to be exercised by a notice in writing. On the face of it a mere date stamp did nothing more than record the date of entry.

It was difficult to understand how it could possibly amount to a written grant of indefinite leave when it was placed on a passport in the belief, albeit mistaken, that the holder was exempt from control.

It was, however, possible that the factual matrix might be such that the date stamp would amount to a written grant of indefinite leave; if, for example, the date stamp was, as a matter of practice always used to indicate the grant of indefinite leave. But that was not the case.

His Lordship referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Badieki* (The Times May 3, 1987) where the Divisional Court had clearly stated that a date stamp as a notice in writing giving indefinite leave to enter but appeared also to have been of the view that if the stamp had been impressed by mistake or if the immigration officer asserted that the date stamp was not the position would have been different.

The court had recognized that mistake would have been sufficient to prevent the date stamp operating as a grant of indefinite leave. In so far as it did his Lordship agreed with it.

Even, therefore, if a date stamp could be regarded as a notice in writing that the holder had been granted indefinite leave in some circumstances it could not, in his view, be so regarded in the present case.

Paragraph 6(1) of the Second

Schedule to the Immigration Act 1971 provided that "... where a person examined by an immigration officer ... is to be given a limited leave to enter the United Kingdom or is to be refused leave, the notice giving or refusing leave shall be given not later than twelve hours after the conclusion of the examination ... and if notice giving or refusing leave is not given before the end of those twelve hours, he shall (if not a British citizen) be deemed to have been given indefinite leave to enter the United Kingdom ..."

The paragraph had since been amended but that was not material to the present case. Paragraph 6(1) could only apply when the immigration officer was considering whether the person should be refused leave to enter or that he should be granted limited leave to enter.

It clearly could not apply when the conclusion of an immigration officer was that the immigrant did not need leave. Whether the officer's conclusion was mistaken or not and whether, if mistaken, the mistake resulted from error or misunderstanding or plain negligence it was impossible for paragraph 6(1) to apply.

His Lordship further considered whether if Mr Bagga was given leave to enter on April 13, 1986 the decision that such leave was obtained by mistake could stand and, after considering the evidence, held that he would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE GLEDHILL and LORD JUSTICE LEGGATT delivered concurring judgments. Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Siddiqui & Co; Harrow; Seifert Sedley Williams.

## Council's duty to rehouse applicant

*Regina v East Hertfordshire District Council, Ex parte Smith*

Before Lord Justice Gledhill, Lord Justice Stocker and Sir Rouseley Cumming Bruce (Judgment April 3)

An offer of temporary accommodation, without a promise of permanent accommodation to follow, could satisfy the duty of a council under section 39 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 to rehouse an applicant displaced from residential accommodation by a compulsory purchase order.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Josephine Smith against a grant by the council of £1,000 under section 11 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1963, by East Hertfordshire District Council, namely an offer of temporary accommodation on the land on which she and her family lived.

Mr Patrick Ground, QC and Mr Michael Pooley for Mrs Smith; Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Richard Humphreys for the council.

LORD JUSTICE GLEDHILL said that following service by the council of an enforcement notice and a discontinuance notice against Mrs Smith's use of her land for the siting of her permanent home, she served a purchase notice on the council under section 189 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 by which the council was authorised to purchase the land compulsorily.

The council made two offers to rehouse Mrs Smith and her family but they were both rejected because the family wished to stay together and the offers entailed one of the daughters, who was married, living separately.

The compulsory purchase order came into force and the council served a notice of intent to enter and take possession of the land. Mrs Smith was informed that the family would be rehoused in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

The decision was challenged on the ground that the council had failed in its duty under section 39(1) of the Land Compensation Act 1973 to secure alternative accommoda-

tion for Mrs Smith. His Lordship was uncertain whether the council's duty arose under that section or under section 51(8) of the 1971 Act but as there was no practical difference between the two he was prepared to regard section 39(1) as applicable.

The council had to consider whether there was alternative accommodation available without it having to take any action. If not, it was then under a duty to secure suitable alternative accommodation for each member of the family.

There was nothing in the section to indicate that all members of the family should be accommodated together. No doubt it would be unreasonable to separate a husband and wife or small children. But as a general proposition that was not the case with adult children.

His Lordship did not agree with the argument that the provision of temporary bed and breakfast accommodation was of itself a failure to comply with the duty under section 39(1). It was for the council to decide what was reasonable in all the circumstances. Those circumstances included the amount

and type of accommodation available at any one time.

His Lordship accepted that *R v Bristol Corporation, Ex parte Hendy* (1974) 1 WLR 498 was authority for the proposition that in appropriate circumstances an offer of temporary accommodation with a promise of permanent accommodation to follow could meet the duty under section 39(1).

But he did not accept that it was authority for the proposition that the offer of temporary accommodation had to be accompanied by the promise of permanent accommodation.

However, in the instant case it was clear that on the facts there had been the offer of permanent accommodation to follow. In the circumstances, it could not be said that the council had acted unreasonably, particularly when the family had rejected two earlier offers of accommodation.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER delivered a concurring judgment and Sir Rouseley Cumming Bruce agreed. Solicitors: Pellys, Bishop, Stortford; Lovell White Durrant.

## Foreign judgment determines issue

*House of Spring Gardens Ltd and Others v Waite and Others*

Before Lord Justice Fox, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice McCowan (Judgment April 11)

Where proceedings were brought in an English court to enforce a foreign judgment as a debt at common law, the defendants were estopped from pleading that the judgment was obtained by fraud because in a separate, second action in the foreign jurisdiction that question had been decided against them.

The Court of Appeal, in a reserved judgment, so held in dismissing an appeal by the third defendant, Mr Gordon Stewart Macleod, from a judgment of Sir Peter Pain, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, in the sum of £3,795,613, in favour of the plaintiffs, House of Spring Gardens Ltd, Armoursfield Ltd and Mr Michael Sacks.

Mr Lionel Swift, QC and Mr Michael Harrington for Mr Macleod; Mr Gavin Lighnam, QC and Mr Alan Boyle for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiffs obtained a judgment against all three defendants in the Republic of Ireland for £3,474,570 and interest of £78,337, given by Mr Justice Costello.

An appeal by the three defendants to the Supreme Court of Ireland was dismissed on January 11, 1983, save that the amount of interest was reduced.

The purpose of the present proceedings in England was to enforce the judgment of Mr Justice Costello. The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 did not apply to that judgment.

The answer put forward by the defendants in the present proceedings was that the judgment of Mr Justice Costello was obtained by fraud, namely misrepresentation as to the plaintiffs' entitlement to the confidential information and copyright in issue in the action.

Each of the defendants in the present action pleaded that on January 28, 1983, Mr William Edward Waite and Mr Seamus White, the first and second

defendants, commenced an action in Ireland to set aside the judgment of Mr Justice Costello on the ground of fraud.

However, on October 9, 1987 after a hearing on the merits, Mr Justice Egan dismissed the action. On June 10, 1988 the Supreme Court gave its judgment on the point that immunity for default in setting down the appeal.

It was the plaintiffs' case that having regard to the result of the judgment of Mr Justice Egan the defence of fraud was no longer available to the defendants.

The first issue that arose on the appeal was whether the Waite defence was estopped by the judgment of Mr Justice Costello. It was obtained by fraud. It was a judgment in proceedings in England to enforce a foreign judgment as a debt at common law, the defendant could set up a defence that the judgment was obtained by fraud because in a separate, second action in the foreign jurisdiction that question had been decided against them.

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distinguishing. In neither was the question whether the judgment was obtained by fraud litigated in a separate and second action in the foreign jurisdiction.

Unless Mr Justice Egan's decision was itself impeached by fraud, it was conclusive of the matters thereby adjudicated upon, namely whether Mr Justice Costello's judgment was obtained by fraud.

Some attempt was made before Sir Peter Pain to argue that Mr Justice Egan's judgment was impeachable for fraud. That was not supported by any evidence save a bare assertion in an affidavit which did not warrant consideration.

There was no doubt that the judge was correct to hold, on the material and argument before him, that the Waite defence was estopped from alleging that the judgment of Mr Justice Costello was obtained by fraud.

The judge did not find it necessary to consider the question of abuse of process. There was no doubt that, even if the judgment of Mr Justice Egan did not create an estoppel, it would be an abuse of process for the Waite to relitigate the same issue in the English courts upon which they had failed in Ireland, not least because they had chosen that forum, which was the natural forum, in which to challenge the judgment of Mr Justice Costello.

They could, if they had wished, merely wait for enforcement proceedings to be taken in England, and then attempted to set up fraud. They did not do so. They could not try again to obtain a different verdict.

Was Mr Macleod then bound by Mr Justice Egan's judgment? He was not a party to the action. But an estoppel would bind parties who were privy to the parties bound: see *Carl Zeiss Stiftung v Rayner & Keeler* (No 2) ([1967] 1 AC 853).

All three defendants were joint tortfeasors, having acted in breach of the duty of confidence in relation to the confidential information imparted to them and in breach of the plaintiffs' copyright. The judgment against them was joint and several.

If the Waite defence is set aside Mr Justice Costello's judg-

ment would have been set aside in 1980, not just against the Waite.

Even if the judgment against Mr Macleod did not automatically fall in the event of the Waite succeeding, it was plain that in the English proceedings the plea of estoppel or abuse of process would have prevented the plaintiffs pursuing the claim on Mr Justice Costello's judgment against Mr Macleod.

Mr Macleod was well aware of those proceedings. He could have applied to be joined in them and no one could have opposed his application. He chose not to do so and he had vouchsafed no explanation as to why he did not. That was sufficient to make him privy to the estoppel. It was just to hold that he was bound by the decision of Mr Justice Egan.

The same result could be reached by the route of abuse of process. The question was whether it would be an abuse of process for Mr Macleod to litigate the issue of fraud to be litigated again in England. It would not and it would be a travesty of justice.

Not only would the plaintiffs be required to relitigate matters which had twice been extensively investigated and decided in their favour in the natural forum, but they would run the risk of inconsistent verdicts being reached not only as between the English and Irish courts but as between the defendants and themselves.

The Waite defence did not appeal Sir Peter Pain's judgment and they were right not to do so. The plaintiffs would no doubt proceed to execute their judgment against them.

What could be a greater source of injustice, if in years to come when the issue was finally decided, a different decision was reached in Mr Macleod's case? Public policy required that there should be an end of litigation and that a litigant should not be vexed more than once in the same cause.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN delivered a concurring judgment and LORD JUSTICE FOX agreed.

Solicitors: T. Cryan & Co, Walsgrave; Philip Conn & Co, Manchester.

## Jury's freedom to find on lesser verdict

*Regina v Carson*

Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice McKinnon (Judgment April 10)







## MOTORING

Edited by Kevin Eason  
Motoring Correspondent

## Fiat's beautiful baby

Cars get bigger, never smaller. Marketing experts argue that should you decide to buy the same model again, you can unfailingly expect more car for your money. Inevitably, car manufacturers, with few exceptions, take this as an opportunity to change more for the new model. Why? "Well, it is bigger, so it costs more to make," is the usual answer.

Aside from the added cost, the other niggles is that an owner who is happy with the size of his or her VW Golf Mk I may find the Golf Mk II less nippy in traffic and not as easy to park.

The inexorable growth of car sizes means there are few genuinely small cars available — and the number is likely to decrease. It all comes back to size. Car manufacturers have found that making a profit on a small car is not easy. Models such as the Renault 5 and Ford Fiesta get bigger with every generation, but no small cars are being developed for the bottom of the range.

Small cars are a bit like the silent majority — no one makes a fuss about them. The Fiat 126 BIS is an example. It is never ad-

**Bigger cars do not always mean happier drivers. The latest mini Fiat offers style, handling and comfort which belie its size**

vertised and should a motoring journalist ask to test one, the answer from the manufacturer will be a firm "no". Getting to drive a Ferrari is easier.

However, the Polish-built baby Fiat consistently finds 2,500 customers each year in Britain, and if more could be imported sales would almost certainly rise.

The Fiat 126 is ridiculously cheap. A glance down the list of the hundreds of models on sale reveals that nothing comes close to the diminutive Fiat's price of £2,995.

At only 108 long, the Mini is 2in shorter than the Fiat 126 and is faster and more roomy inside, although the £4,799 price tag for the basic City model is hardly modest. The stalwart Citroën 2CV cannot match the compactness of its two-door rivals, and costs £3,963.

The likeable Skoda 120L (£3,693), which is nearing the end

of a long life, and the unlovable Yugo 45A (£3,794) come closest to the Fiat on price.

All small cars have long lives and the Fiat 126 is no different. It was launched in 1972 to replace the tiny Fiat 500. Styling a car just 10ft 2in long is not easy, yet the Fiat 126 looked modern and distinctive 18 years ago. Italians have a natural flair for small cars, and today the latest 126 is still pleasing to the eye.

For much of its life, the car offered little boot space — just enough for a soft holdall under the bonnet. In 1987, the BIS model was introduced with a hatchback style and an opening rear tailgate. For shoppers, it is a big improvement — the rear seats fold forward to increase the boot space.

Beneath the boot, the aged and noisy air-cooled twin-cylinder engine has made way for a quieter, more modern water-cooled unit. Gone also is the siren-like drone of

the starter motor. Engine size is still a tiny 704cc compared with the previous 652cc, producing just 26bhp.

It takes half a minute to reach 60mph, but this is hardly relevant. What is more important is that stirring the four-speed gearbox will allow the Fiat 126 to keep pace with town traffic without the driver feeling threatened. Longer gearing is designed to quieten the engine and the BIS does not feel as eager as its less-couth predecessor.

The Fiat's strong point is economy. On the official urban-cycle figures, it returns 48.7mpg. Cars harm the environment, but the Fiat 126 does less damage than most. It runs on unleaded petrol.

Brakes and comfort have improved in recent years, yet it is the vehicle's size and agility which set it apart. Steering is so sharp and responsive it could have come from a go-kart.

As Britain's city streets become more congested, environmentalists may eventually convince us that small is beautiful. The Fiat 126 BIS already makes the point.

Daniel Ward



The diminutive Fiat 126 BIS: its excellent economy and handling mean more value for less car

## Two wheels against inflation

**Classic motorcycles are returning in style, the choice of investors seeking originality and an enduring value**

THERE WAS a time when only motorcycle enthusiasts would argue that two wheels were better than four. But with the spectre of rising inflation, more and more investors are using classic motorcycles to stay ahead in the race for high yields to protect their funds.

Even the best examples of great British hardware are providing a hedge against inflation at a time when owners of collector cars are asking five and six figure prices. Brian Verrall, an expert in classic motorcycles, believes the big money could soon move from cars to two-wheeled transport.

Already investors, such as Eddie Shah, have seen the opportunities. He paid about £40,000 for a 1930 Brough Superior. Tycoon Peter de Savary spent £26,000 on a 1921 Model H Triumph. "Both paid well over the odds in my opinion," says Mr Verrall, who has been dealing in motorcycles for almost 40 years and advises Christie's and Sotheby's.

"The top price paid at auction was at Christie's sale

at the Donington Park race track last April. A 1912 Walleycar three-wheeler fetched more than £60,000. But there have been whispers of private sales reaching £250,000 for some exotic machines."

Buyers should not be put off by these outlandish prices, Mr Verrall says. "A mint Manx Norton racing machine can still be bought for under £24,000," he says. "But a collector can start with as little as £2,000 to acquire a good running classic machine that will hold its value in the years to come."

Though veteran (pre-1914) and vintage (pre-1930) motorcycles have risen steadily in value, it is among the classic post-war machines that the biggest increases have been recorded. The powerful Vincent Black Shadow of the 1950s has more than doubled

its value in the past three years. A buyer today would be lucky to find a good one for less than £15,000.

Mr Verrall says: "This is an area heavy in nostalgia. People are buying the machines they remember of the Forties, Fifties and Sixties. It is not only British bikes. An Italian MV Augusta of the era, in pristine condition, can reach £30,000."

The key to investing in motorcycles is originality. "Collectors should aim for machines that are as near original as possible," he says. "Good restoration jobs are fine, but to be a sound investment the bike must have its original frame and engine."

Rare racing machines also attract investors. Some of the less-scrupulous may favour built for the track as a way of

hiding large sums of money from the Inland Revenue. Top of the racer enthusiast's shopping list are the Manx and International Nortons, the "boy racer" AJS 7R, the Velocette Mark VIII and the BSA Goldstar DBD34.

Another advantage of investing in motorcycles is easy storage.

Mr Verrall hopes the classic bike scene will remain populated by enthusiasts. "It is not like collecting stamps," he says. "Working machines have to be kept clean and oiled, and most of my customers keep them as much for the occasional sunny afternoon ride as for their monetary value."

For those wanting to relive the glorious days of British biking, but who want the reliability of a modern machine, a new Manx Norton is being built with full factory approval. Five replicas of the 1961 model will be made this year by a former Norton racer, Bernie Allen, at workshops in Swindon, Wiltshire. The replicas will cost £26,450.

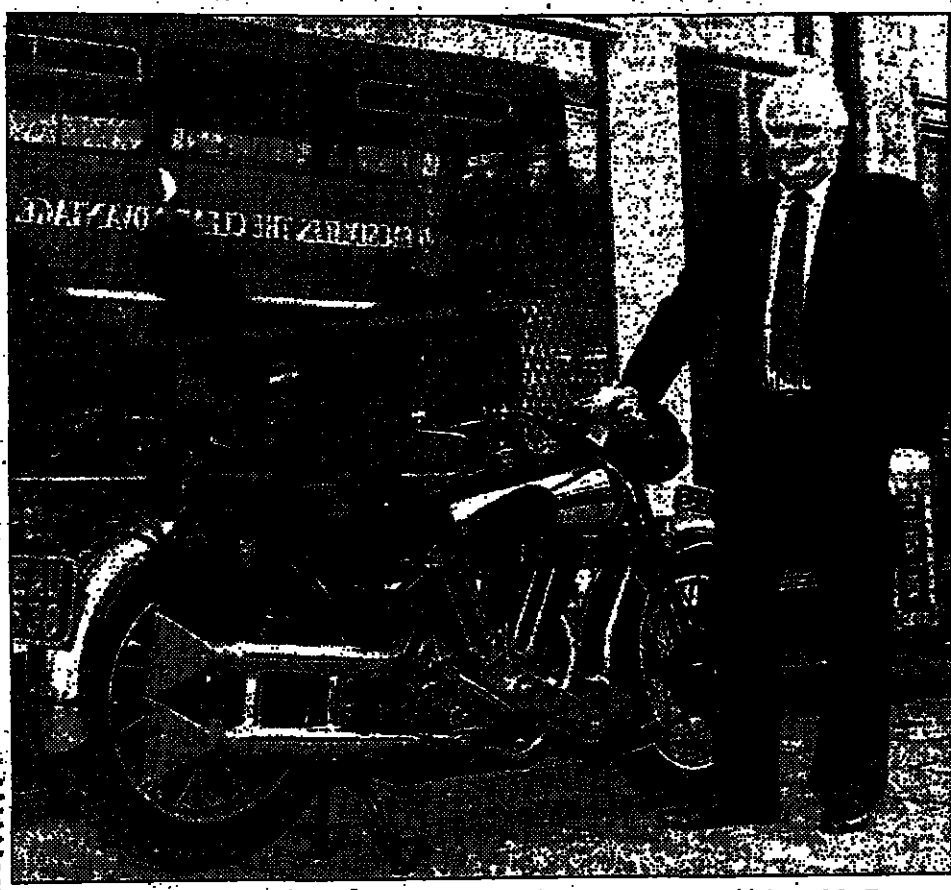
Paul Myles

## ROADWISE

■ When Formula One champion McLaren launches a 200mph road-going supercar in three years, it will cost more than £500,000. Production may be only 50 cars a year. At least 300 customers have put their names down in the unofficial order book. Many of them are car collectors who have been asked by McLaren for their views on what type of machine the firm should design.

■ Vauxhall's Cavalier has been voted Fleet Car of the Year for the fourth time by the Association of Car Fleet Operators, which represents 500 major fleets. The winning car has to "give the best all-round value over a period of 12 months".

■ The only British designs to challenge the famous Italian styling houses at the Turin show this week will come from the Worthing firm IAD. It will display a stunning sports car, Venus, which has the exposed suspension and wheels of a racing car, and a five-seater, multi-purpose vehicle based on a Ford Escort, dubbed the Mini MPV. Sales of MPVs are increasing quickly in the United States and demand in Europe for vehicles such as the Renault Espace is expected to rise strongly in the 1990s.



Brian Verrall and his 1937 Brough Superior SS100, one of less than 300 built

## WHAT'S REASSURING ABOUT A USED ROVER IS HOW MANY HANDS IT'S BEEN THROUGH.

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## YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Edited by Rodney Hobson

## BRIEFINGS

**The Export Credit Guarantee Department** will consider applications from British firms seeking to invest in Eastern Europe. Priority will be given to smaller schemes and those that offer East European countries the opportunity for overseas earnings.

**The second London Language Show** will take place at the Barbican on June 19 to 21. Organized by Prof. of Vernon Place, London, it will cover training, translation and interpreting services, computers, books, tapes and videos.

**The Government's excise policies** for the single European market could bankrupt many wine and spirit firms in southern England, according to Mr Richard Insole, director of the Wine and Spirit Association. He said the Government had refused to join EC moves towards harmonization of excise duties. He said: "Serious fears are growing that new styles of operation, bringing low-taxed goods from Calais or Boulogne... could drive smaller wine merchants out of business. To take advantage of huge differentials in excise duties, major traders will begin operating massive low-duty warehouses just across the Channel."

## MR FRIDAY



"It's three times as much as what you've saved me!"

## In the Miles-Moore mould

By Peter Levi

IT TAKES most potters many years to become established, but a new Lancashire ceramics business called Memra - the name given by the goddess of the crafts - has become highly successful within just six months.

This success is due partly to talent, but much more to hard work, experience and a determination to use all available business expertise to have played an important role.

Memra is a partnership between Mr Martin Miles-Moore, aged 30, and Miss Carol Newmarch, a Middlesex Polytechnic graduate and teacher. They met when Mr Miles-Moore, joined Miss Newmarch's ceramic evening class in Lancaster. The enthusiastic response to his work persuaded Mr Miles-Moore to give up a secure, well-paid job with the electricity board to study ceramics at Lancaster Polytechnic.

On graduating last summer, he exhibited at the New Designers exhibition in London. The show invited manufacturers, retailers and galleries to buy and commission designs or employ designers.

As a result of the show, he received many commissions from private clients and interior designers and now has work in Liberty's, several London galleries and the Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, among other notable places.

Memra has been selected by the Crafts Council to participate in an exhibition of British crafts in California this autumn. Sponsored by the Department of Trade



Shaping his own destiny: Martin Miles-Moore, who set up Memra with Carol Newmarch

and Industry, the exhibition is the first step towards Memra's planned expansion into export markets.

Mr Miles-Moore's commercial experience includes working as a sales representative for four years. After interest was shown in his work, he applied for an enterprise allowance and sought a £5,000 business development loan from National Westminster Bank to finance equipment and a vehicle. Although he knew how to draw up a business plan, before approaching the bank, he went to the local business development agency, which put him in touch with the DIT's Small Firm's Service. An

SFS adviser suggested changing the presentation format, which helped secure the loan.

How to pay for professional photography and a professionally designed brochure is often a stumbling block. Memra has solved the problem by organizing skill swaps. A photographer and a graphic designer gave their services in return for some of Memra's ceramics.

Memra's work is both functional and decorative. It is produced by slipcasting, pressmoulding, throwing and hand-building. Although Memra's projected turnover of £20,000 sounds modest, it is in fact high

for a pottery, particularly in its first year of trading. In spite of the economic climate, the projected turnover has been substantially exceeded during the first six months.

The incomes of Mr Miles-Moore and Miss Newmarch are boosted by teaching - they organize peripatetic ceramic workshops at schools and art centres.

However, they are already planning to move to a larger workshop and to employ a student on placement.

Their next exhibition is at The New Designers Gallery, Business Design Centre, Islington, London, from July 11 to 14.

## Leasehold moves ahead in property popularity stakes

By A Correspondent

THE value of Britain's independent retail business premises is growing again after a period of stagnation, but prices for leasehold shops are rising faster than those for freehold.

A quarterly review of average prices published by Everest Mason and Furby, an agency based in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, shows leasehold prices rising by 6.45 per cent a year, against only 2.9 per cent in freehold values.

New entrants into small retail businesses, who would normally sell their home to buy a freehold business property with residential accommodation, are being forced by high interest rates to take alternative steps.

The agency's figures are based on a sample of 1,096 independent retail businesses nationwide. They show that the average price of a leasehold business has risen 1.75 per cent to £55,427 since January 1. This compares with a growth of less than 0.75 per cent in freehold values, taking the average price in the same period to £181,438. In both cases, they are the first rises in national average values for more than a year.

Mr Anthony Madden, the chairman, said: "The virtual standstill on residential sales throughout the whole of last year had a dramatic knock-on effect on business sales. However, there are real signs of movement now, characterized by

new entrants raising finance on the family home, instead of selling it, in order to buy a business.

"As a result, the demand for leasehold businesses, notably lock-up premises, is growing steadily and beginning to force up prices. The situation has led to a lower-than-usual demand for freeholds, and so growth in values, although detectable for the first time in over a year, is at a much slower rate."

EM&F's figures show that the recovery has not yet fed through to all regions. East Anglia, for example, is lagging. Leasehold values are rising at the rate of only 1 per cent per annum on first-quarter results, and freehold values are still 15 per cent lower than in December, 1988.

The Midlands and the North, however, advanced in the first quarter of 1990. Freehold prices rose more than 1 per cent and leaseholds are up by 3 per cent between January 1 and March 31. The South West and West of England, Wales and the Welsh borders have seen a 1.5 per cent growth in freehold values during the first quarter, with leaseholds up 2.25 per cent.

In London, however, there has been a 1.9 per cent growth in freehold values, but only 1.65 per cent in leasehold values, making it the only area to go against the trend towards leasehold premises.

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More chair-bound sprinters are proving that the marathon distance need not be a handicap

# The race is against yourself

By Alix Ramsay

SO YOU want to join the SIA? An ever-growing club providing a wide range of facilities to its members all over the country, facilities that are individually adapted to each member's needs? It's a club that will certainly set you apart from the rest, as the SIA is the Spinal Injuries Association.

All you have to do to join is injure your spinal column. How you do it is up to you - fall off a horse or under a bus, the SIA will not mind. But once you have done it, you are in.

By 1987 the SIA had nearly 5,000 members and with two spinal injury accidents every day in Britain, the number is growing.

"We are there for anyone who has disability thrown upon them," John Fieldus, appeals director of the SIA, said. "It takes an awfully long time to rehabilitate. Spinal cord injury is the ultimate critical injury. The first thing people want after an accident is information and the SIA provides that to help them cope."

The association has desks manned by SIA members at all the spinal injuries units, such as Stoke Mandeville. Run by an executive committee and management team of 124 wheelchair users, the SIA provides positive proof that life does not stop just because you have broken your back.

The idea came from Baroness Masham of Iton. She broke her neck while riding in a point-to-point in 1959 and soon realized that people paralysed in this way need help and support to pick up the pieces after an accident. So in 1974 she founded the SIA with the Princess Royal as Patron.

With many members coming from riding accidents, the association has raised money and promoted itself through the racing fraternity. In the 1988-89 season it was supported by Coral Racing raising £280,000 through sponsorship and spreading the word about the association at every race track. The year before it was Everest Double Glazing which lent its support through show jumping and next year the SIA plans a big drive with the Green evening, with Lucinda Green as president of the appeal.

It can take two or three years to come through rehabilitation and to readjust



London-bound: Carruthers training for the marathon on the modified racing cyclist's rollers which he set up in his Loughborough workshop

to life in a wheelchair and the SIA tries to smooth the way with everything from answering one-off enquiries to providing holidays, care attendants and welfare.

Peter Carruthers found he had to readjust to life in a wheelchair 13 years ago when he broke his neck in a road accident. It left him a paraplegic - unable to walk and with only limited use of his hands and arms. He was given help and advice by the SIA when flat on his back recovering from the accident and now, thanks to a seemingly indomitable spirit and a passion for wheelchair racing, he and his wife, Sheila, run Bromakia Wheelchairs, in Loughborough, the only company in the country to make racing chairs.

Although he is a sprint

specialist, with a 100 metre gold medal from the Paralympics in Seoul to his name, he is going for his sixth London marathon this year, aiming to better his best time of 2 1/2 hours.

"After the accident you always think you're the only one it has ever happened to," Carruthers said. "At that point, your life and your family's life is shattered and an organization like the SIA provides support and lets you know that other people have managed to put their lives back together again."

For Carruthers, a former rugby player, it was his wish to get back into sport that got him on his way. "At first I found the sporting opportunities available to me were very limited," he said. "I wanted to do something with

the real thrill of sport. I thought maybe wheelchair racing would provide it."

A trip to the International Games at Stoke Mandeville in 1982 provided the spark. Watching Beau Lindqvist, of Sweden, win a batch of medals, Carruthers set out to make himself a chair that would enable him to try racing. With a little help from a bicycle maker he came up with a frame. He then bolted a fibre glass seat to it and Carruthers was off and wheeling.

"I first raced in 1983 and the longest race I could enter was the 100 metres. It was thought tetraplegics couldn't do the longer distances." But a meeting shortly afterwards with Jan-Ove Mattsson, another Swedish athlete, also a tetraplegic, convinced him otherwise.

"Mattsson has raised everyone's expectations of what they can achieve, including people like me. When I started I didn't have the slightest idea I could do a marathon."

It is easy to think of people in wheelchairs as all having the same level of disability, but that is far from the case. Every injury brings its own set of problems unique to that individual. "That is the great thing about wheelchair racing," Carruthers said. "The differences don't really matter. It is no great advantage to have more mobility once you are in the chair. Everyone is racing against himself."

But it is not all cheerful good spirits and a stiff upper lip. People in wheelchairs cope because they have to. "When you're in hospital everyone thinks it is the last thing I ever do I will walk again," Carruthers said. "But you can't make the spinal cord regenerate and you don't walk again. Anyway, walking isn't so terribly important."

"For me, the greatest resentment is my high level of disability. I wish I had a better level of disability for racing. Tetraplegics always say: 'Leaving aside being able to walk again, I wish I was a paraplegic.' You always want a little more than what you've got."

## European flyers await Holding

By Jane Wyatt

LAST year's winner of the ADT/BSAD London Marathon, David Holding, aged 21 from Kettering, faces a tough fight if he is to retain his title on Sunday. Holding has missed three weeks of training following a minor operation and although his coach, Dennis Taylor, has been impressed by his recovery and recent form, it is not an ideal position to be in considering the quality of the field.

Late entries have pushed the number of runners up to 63, more than three times the field of the first London wheelchair marathon, held in 1983. Wheelchair athletes from France, Sweden and West Germany will be providing some of the strongest opposition. The fastest man in the race, Jean-Francois Poitevin, has a personal best of 1hr 39min 35sec, with the Swede, Lars Lofstrom, only two seconds behind.

Farid Amarouche, of France, is hot on his tracks with a personal best of 1hr 40min 45sec, and two other Swedes, Bosse Lindqvist and Hakam Ericsson, both come in at under 1hr 42min. The West German, Wolfgang Petersen, and Robin Eigh, also have faster personal bests than Holding's 1hr 58min 14sec.

But Holding does not have to look overseas for one of his most dangerous adversaries. Chris Hallam, MBE, winner in 1985 and 1987, will be determined to achieve his third title, and he has shown himself to be faster than Holding over the marathon distance with a personal best, achieved at the 1988 Seoul Paralympics, of 1hr 51min 23sec.

As a veteran of the course, Hallam is undaunted by the influx of top European racers. Personal bests recorded on straight roads are one thing, but the large number of bends and different surfaces in the London route he describes as "a great leveller". On present form, and with the prospect of further surgery awaiting Holding, Hallam seems to have a better chance against the continentals.

Organizers expect an even faster race than last year, which was the first to break the two-

hour barrier in a UK integrated marathon. It will be hard, though, to recreate the excitement of 1989, when the four leading competitors fought it out in the final run-in from Westminster Bridge and Holding snatched victory from the 1988 winner, the Canadian, Ted Vince, in the last 50-yard sprint.

The thrill of that finish was final confirmation, if any were necessary, that wheelchair racing can be an exhilarating spectator sport. Such considerations are important because they encourage other race organizers to mount fully integrated events.

Only seven years ago the winning time was 3hr 30min and the wheelchair racers had to start behind the running competitors. Now they start 15 minutes before them. The dramatic improvement in time is a reflection of the growth of road racing on the international scene. Great Britain's training schedules see competitors covering more than 100 miles a week, in addition to interval training which prepares them for the "break and chase" nature of a wheelchair marathon.

Unfortunately, road racing has not yet reached the level of popularity with British women that it has with our men, as demonstrated by the fact that of the five women entrants only two are British. Last year's winner, Jose Cichocky, has pulled out, as has our other top woman racer, Karen Davidson, winner in 1987 and 1988 and the British record holder. However, Davidson's record time of 2hr 04min 45sec was set in 1986, and she is expected to make a comeback against the performance of one of the late entries, Denmark's Connie Hansen.

Hansen, a 25-year-old occupational therapist, has been voted her country's athlete of the year following her time of 1hr 50min in the 1989 Boston marathon, which was her best. She is most an hour ahead of her nearest rival, a fellow Dane, Ingrid Lauridsen. It means that for the first time in the London race a woman is expected to come home shortly after the leading man, smashing the course record in the process.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Answers sought for recurring plague of injuries

By Keith Macklin

TOP-LEVEL inquests are taking place at Rugby Football League headquarters in Leeds following the announcement of the injuries which will keep Ellery Hanley and other outstanding players out of the Great Britain touring team to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. The loss of up to half a dozen seasoned internationals has created havoc in the plans of Malcolm Reilly, the Great Britain coach. David Oxley, the chief executive, has had several talks with tour officials and medical personnel in an attempt to find the underlying reasons for a plague which has hit every overseas tour in recent memory.

The loss of star players is not peculiar to the present tour. In the 1979 tour of Australia the captain, Doug Loughton, and key performers like Steve Nash, Roger Millward and Jim Mills all played little part in the tour after suffering early injuries.

In 1984 and 1988 there were further disasters. Indeed, the 1988 tour to Australia saw the loss of several players going down like dominoes and being flown home at regular intervals. These included Garry Schofield, Shaun Edwards, Paul Medley, Lee Crockett, David Stephenson and Paul Dixon, and it was a remarkable performance when a patched-up side won the third international against Australia at Sydney.

There has been the announcement this week of the unavailability of Hanley, the captain, whose inspirational running and leadership will be badly missed. The forward, Andy Platt, and the Widnes wing, Martin Offiah, are both rated extremely doubtful, and others carrying injuries include Joe Lydon and Shaun Edwards.

Steve Harrison, the Wigan full back, who has pulled out of the current tour for "personal reasons", had to miss the 1988 tour through injury.

Oxley and his headquarters team are thus faced with a recurring problem which seems

to go much deeper than mere bad luck.

"We need to look much further into this and analyse various probable causes," Oxley said. "It could be that the number of matches played each season in a variety of competitions is taking its toll, particularly in successful clubs like Wigan who are involved in everything. The intensity of the game nowadays is much faster and much more demanding over 80 minutes under the six-tackles rule. Players cannot take breathers or hide in what has now become a 15-man game with forwards having to run and backs having to take their share of tackling."

Oxley and the league's dedicated medical team are considering another possibility, that some injuries may be hastily and wrongly diagnosed and do not receive proper early treatment. The pelvic problem of Hanley took months of patient and strenuous research to diagnose properly, and it may well have to be the same with other players.

David Howes, the public affairs executive, said: "Much emphasis has been placed on the development of the upper and lower regions of the body in fitness training. Perhaps greater emphasis needs to be placed on the middle regions. This point is underlined by Hanley's injury and by the groin trouble which will cause Andy Gregory, the Wigan scrum half, to have an operation this summer instead of going on tour."

Crabtree, a 21-year-old scrum half, who was injured by a scrum, became Top Fan of 1990 yesterday for his services to Bradford Northern as secretary of the supporters club. Historian of the game, Graham Taylor, who has pulled out of the current tour for "personal reasons", had to miss the 1988 tour through injury.

Oxley and his headquarters team are thus faced with a recurring problem which seems

## CRICKET

## Shrewsbury keen to extend season

By George Chesterton

THE delay to the start of term, caused by a late Easter, and earlier and earlier seasons will result in the truncation of an already short cricket season.

Although the change does not come until 1991, Shrewsbury plan to continue the term late-mid-July starting their new academic year after A-levels. Great new opportunities for cricket would be opened up if other schools were to follow.

In 1990, Shrewsbury welcome Paul Fridge, the Worcester shire opening bowler, as their professional. The first four in last year's batting order will be back, including D J Bennett, the captain; they are returning to festive cricket at the end of term and will be joined by Radley, Eton and Geelong College to compete in a series of 55-over matches for the Silk Trophy.

At Radley, much will depend on H C L Sinclair, who will be able to call on four Colours from last year. J W A Horton has similar support at Malvern, but here much interest will focus on Hedley Verity's grandson James, who has joined the school in the sixth form.

Trent have the unusual privilege of entering two Australian schools and, on June 29, the date of the annual derby with Nottingham High School, their new pavilion will be opened. Against Trent last year, J N Sasse, of Shrewsbury, made his highest score of 151 and went on to average 93 overall; he returns

as captain and leads an experienced side. Wicket-keepers will fall to J M Windsor and D A Bacon at Repton; they will spearhead the attack in a side where most batsmen have been untried.

At Oundle, A Lee also an opening batsman, is captain. His main support will come from A Richardson, son of the Derbyshire player. There is an even greater shortage of experience at Oakham, where A Lee is captain; their programme includes a cricket week before they join the Gresham Festival.

Further west, Cheltenham return with a tour to Gibraltar and Spain behind them. B B Jones, the captain, in his third year, is likely to be the chief run scorer. Their neighbours at Dean Close have eight old Colours, including C Townsend and C Knightley, who have both played Gloucestershire Under-19. T Simmons captained a Bath Schools XI on a Christmas tour in Australia; he leads Monkton Combe, to whom A Lee has been transferred.

At King's Taunton, W J K Gresswell leads a balanced side, but at Queen's, despite strong batting, the absence of a spin bowler may be a handicap. D D Atwell, of Shrewsbury, should score heavily; he averaged over 50 last year.

## Eastern tour expands prep schools' horizons

By Barry Trowbridge

THERE are few better ways to prepare for the rigours ahead than a tour of the world. That being the case, two preparatory schools, Cunnor House, from South Croydon, Surrey, and Prior Park, from the Cotswolds, Wiltshire, should be in splendid form once the term begins. Both have just returned from Australia.

Cunnor House emerged with the better cricketing record, though without the additional education gained by the Prior Park boys, who stopped over on their outward journey in Hong Kong, playing two matches there and enjoying the rugby sevens tournament.

Rain affected the Australian leg of their trip, restricting them to five games, of which they won three and lost two, but they did notch up a statistically remarkable victory in their second match in Hong Kong, by 11 wickets after their hosts had requested 12-a-side games.

Cunnor House's tour comprised eight matches in Sydney, one in Canberra and four in Perth, of which they won seven

and drew three. Aged between 10 and 13, compared to Prior Park's spread from 11 to 14, the squad of 14 players accumulated 1,240 runs, which will raise more than £5,000 for the Princess Chela Children's Cancer Ward of The Royal Marsden Hospital, the beneficiaries of the tour's run-sponsorship scheme.

Philip McDonnell and David Sales, the captain and vice-captain, were excellent, but Martyn Cook, the team's batsman, said that everybody played their part and will have a "cricketing memory" of Australia.

Seven years hence, McDonnell, aged 13, and Sales, aged 12, scored 648 runs. Sales' total of 395 included five half-centuries and a top score of 71 not out. McDonnell hit two fifties in consecutive innings in Sydney, and Brian Caulfield, with a 57, and Matthew Dawson, 54, also made their mark.

With the ball, Sales was again the biggest contributor, taking 27 wickets for 162 runs in 99.1 overs, including seven for 24 in Canberra where he also scored an unbeaten 50.

## Barbados to test club

PETER Mills, the Teddington captain, who broke his right thumb last August and missed the team's triumphant rise to the status of national club champions, leads a squad of 23 on a five-match tour to Barbados, starting today (Michael Austin writes).

The visit is the centrepiece of Teddington's prize for winning the Cocksfoot Cup, with the sponsors covering the cost of 12 players making the trip. It is their first overseas tour and offers a rare opportunity for a genuine English club side, without guests, to test their playing standards in the Caribbean.

Appearances of David Malan, a South African fast bowler, who took three for 17 in the Middlesex club's cup final defeat of Walsall by 11 runs at Edgbaston last September. After six years in England, he is returning to South Africa midway through the two-week tour.

Teddington also call upon Andy Miller, formerly of Middlesex, Glen Baker, a leg-spinner who played for Young Zimbabwe against England A at Mutare in February, Gordon Harris, a Bedfordshire fast bowler, and Richard Luddington, an Oxford Blue.

## Confident over distance — without the aid of a horse

By Paul Wheeler

FOR somebody used to races of between two and four miles on horseback, the 26 miles of the London Marathon may seem a bit steep. But Alexandra Embiricos, an amateur jockey, is confident of lasting the distance. "Oh I'll get round," she said, "I hope to finish in about four hours. This is my first marathon — and probably my last."

Embiricos, aged 22, finds herself as part of a team that did not turn up. "I was talking with some friends last year and they were saying, 'Why don't we all go running, and we decided to go for the marathon. Three of us sent off the entry forms, but in the end it was only me who got through."

"I've been in training since September. I do a lot of exercises for racing. I normally run about three miles a day. And then there's cycling and also work in the gym. You have to be fit to ride otherwise you're a hindrance to the horse."

She has suffered some knee problems which have restricted her training, but she passes these off lightly. "I've got some new shoes to help me, so I'll be all right on the day."

## Densimo is not a man to make predictions

By Louise Taylor

BELAYNEH Densimo was not making any predictions about the London Marathon yesterday, in fact, there were few subjects he prepared to commit himself on.

Take his age for instance. It is beyond dispute that Densimo is the holder of the world's best marathon time — 2hr 6min 55sec recorded in Rotterdam in 1988 — but there is plenty of debate regarding his date of birth. In the past, the Ethiopian has claimed to have celebrated 24 birthdays, before turning round a few weeks later and describing himself as aged 32.

At yesterday's pre-race press conference in London, he told his interpreter he was 25. A recording hair-line suggests otherwise, and a grinning Densimo added the mischievous rider: "Well, 25 plus I think the Ethiopian calendar is difficult to sync up with the press conference."

Whatever his age, it is definitely Densimo's first appearance in the London Marathon. How he performs will depend on "how I feel on the morning and the weather and how the course is" — but I am confident I can win it. I also want to improve my marathon record, but I do not know whether I will be on Sunday or the next race."

The mentality may be quintessentially African, but the trappings of success are pure western commercialism. Casually

dressed in baseball jacket and white T-shirt, Densimo fiddled with his wedding ring and consulted his gold watch, before addressing the question of what fame meant to him.

"Of course I am a household name at home, and it has meant a lot of different things to me. My personal life has been improved by 100 per cent, and I have all the basics, like houses and cars, that I need."

It is a far cry from his origins in a peasant village in Sidamo province, where a lack of transport meant that Densimo, one of eight children, first walked and later ran the 20 kilometre round trip to primary school each day.

As a 15-year-old, Densimo entered and won a 21km road race, which gave him the "ambition to win at this game. So I joined the police, got proper training, and started running marathons."

Some would argue that he has been running too many of them just lately, four in the past year. The result has been a jaded-looking Densimo, finishing ninth in New York last November, and third in Tokyo two months ago.

Yet the man himself reiterated his feelings of "confidence about winning in London," and such faith is reflected in his status as the firm favourite to succeed on Sunday.

## Mekkonen chance in Rotterdam

By David Powell

ROTTERDAM (Reuter) — Abebe Mekonnen will be aiming to take advantage of the absence of his compatriot, Belayneh Densimo, who is running in London, to complete another Ethiopian victory in the Rotterdam marathon on Sunday.

Mekonnen won the event in 1986 but Densimo has triumphed for the last three years, recording the world best time of 2hr 06min 50sec in 1988. Densimo's absence in London on Sunday leaves Rotterdam open for Mekonnen, winner of last year's Boston marathon, to try to better the world mark on the flat asphalt roads of Rotterdam.

The marathon, being staged for the tenth time in the world's largest port, has attracted a field of over 10,000 and will again expect to upstage its London rival on quality of performance. The main threat to Mekonnen (best of 2hr 07min 35sec) is likely to come from Ahmed Salah, of Djibouti, who has the fastest marathon time of all the competitors, 2hr 07min 07sec achieved when he ran second to Densimo two years ago.

Stiff competition will also be provided by the Japanese pair of Hiromi Taniguchi (best of 2hr 07min 40sec) and Takeshi Soh (2hr 08min 55sec) while the Dutchman, Marcel ten Kaste, will be eager to improve on his third position last year (2hr 10min 04sec) on his home soil.

## Thackery sets eyes on cut

By David Powell

Athletics Correspondent

THE days of cutting lawns while watching Sebastian Coe go round to trim the world middle distance records are a long way behind Carl Thackery now. The Yorkshireman never was one to let the grass grow beneath his feet, and with the help of the ADT London Marathon on Sunday, he plans to be on the move to Split for the European championships this summer.

Thackery's time as a national under-18 karate champion coincided with Coe's as the world's premier 800 and 1500 metres runner nearly a decade ago. The fun went out of karate when Thackery's father had him working out for two hours a day until he reached black belt, first dan, status. A groundsman at Sheffield University, where Coe trained "while I was on the Flynno", Thackery acquired the taste for running. The bond was tightened when he joined Hallamshire Harriers. Coe's club.

Thackery, aged 27, may yet become Hallamshire's most successful marathon runner, though with Trevor Wright, a former European silver medal winner, the incumbent of that distinction, he has some way to go. After all, in his only two marathons so far, he chucked in one after nine miles and finished the other in 2hr 14min 19sec, which is so far down the British all-time list that you could block Westminster Bridge with the numbers ahead of him.



Thackery: Britain expects

In London, though, all that should change. After the withdrawal through injury of Paul Davies-Hale, the Chicago champion, Thackery is probably Britain's best hope for victory. The first Briton is guaranteed a place in the team for Split.

In the 12 weeks since he dropped out of the Commonwealth Games, suffering a calf injury, Thackery has run a half marathon in 61min 44sec and was close enough to Dionisio Castro when the Portuguese set a world track record for 20 kilometres on March 31 (57:18.4 against Thackery's 57:28.7) that you would not have had time to push the Flynno between them. Which put another way, means: "I am confident I can run a fast time, whether it is 2hr 07min, 2:08 or 2:09. I don't know."



rs sought  
occurring  
of injury

# A loser by name but big was the game

The origin of billiards is very obscure. One train of thought is that billiards was an indoor version of croquet — the mallet replaced by the mace, a wooden stick with a wooden head. The game could have French origins for it is known that Louis XI enjoyed billiards on his own table, which would have had a wooden bed — the size bed didn't arrive until the 1830s. Can you imagine Messrs Higgins or Knowles playing on a wooden bed for the world championship?

It is generally accepted that the first billiards professional was John Roberts in the mid 19th century. Other leading players of the day were William Cook, William Mitchell and W J Peall. They and some other members of the trade set up the Billiards Association in 1885, and so the official rules of the game were introduced.

A new era was born in the early 1900s through Inman and Reece. The rivalry between the two became legendary. The stories of their bickering are unimpaired. I like the one told following an Inman fluke. Sarcastically, Reece asked: "How did you do that?" Inman snapped in reply: "You are fully aware of my terms for tuition!"

It is considered that Inman was the better player, but it was Reece who played two sessions a day for five weeks to compile a break of 499,135 using the anchor cannon — yes, they changed the rules after that.

In 1920 one of the greats entered the scene — Willie Smith, whose

game was that of the ordinary club player but so much better and quite different to his predecessors. He took over the world title from Melbourne Inman who had held it the previous four years. Smith's confederates were Claude Falkner, Tom Newman, Freddie Lawrence and Tom Tohill. At this same time, three names were to emerge, never to be forgotten, in the history of billiards and snooker: New Zealand's Clark McConachy, Australia's Walter Lindrum and England's Joe Davis.

McConachy, Lindrum and Davis, together with Smith and Newman, took over the world stage of billiards until his death in 1934. Davis took the crown from Newman and held it for four years; Lindrum's magical control of the balls and his break-building speed at close cannons brought monotony for spectators, such as Lindrum's artistry, it is said, anyone could throw three balls on the table, and in three shots Lindrum would get close cannons from the position left by the throw. He was, and always will be, the father of the three-ball game.

It was in 1875 that a young Army officer, Colonel Sir Neville Chamberlain (no relation to the man with the umbrella), while stationed in India, had the idea of adding coloured balls to their usual game of Pyramids, so-called because it consisted of a pyramid of red balls, which they took turns to pot with the white cue-ball. The name "snooker" was an Army term, meaning "loser" — if you failed to pot the colours, you lost your money. Snooker was born.

In his hushed, almost reverential tones, Ted Lowe has brought the game of snooker alive to the millions, who have watched it on television from the first recordings of *Pot Black*. Here, in print, he has outlined the origins of the sport, its changing face from the early days of billiards, and the personalities who kept it going through a crisis

For many years, this variation on pool continued as a fun game, a bit of a joke, something to amuse at the end of a serious day's work. Not until 1927 did it take on serious overtones. Even then some professionals couldn't accept it — Tom Reece and Willie Smith voiced scathing remarks about the game at regular intervals.

One player, however, saw the potential in the game of snooker. Joe Davis was not only a cham-

pion billiards player, he was an astute businessman and talented organizer. With 22 balls and a variation of colour, he foresaw the busy action of this "fun-game" and its possibilities. He knew, for he was champion, that the three-ball game of billiards was becoming monotonous to the spectator and small areas of the table being used for close cannons, and lack of movement causing loss of popularity. He lobbied his fellow pros and friends in the trade to

attack the controlling body for a world snooker championship. They were reluctant but gave their consent, and 57 years from the inauguration of the billiards championships, professional snooker launched its championship in 1927.

All the history books will tell you how Joe dominated the game for twenty years undefeated — how he built its popularity, how he made the game his own — but those books may not tell you how

the game died in 1957 from lack of support and finance. The home of the professional game, Leicester Square Hall (formerly Thurston's), had closed its doors in 1955; the shop window was lost.

The three champions of the Fifties and Sixties, Walter Donaldson (twice), Fred Davis (eight times), and particularly John Pulman (eight times over eleven undefeated years) struggled to keep the game alive against all odds, including a new kind of entertainment called television.

So difficult was it for Pulman, he set up challenge matches for his title, and survived seven, the number of years there were no championships. Very few of today's players would know about, or even understand, those difficult times.

Oddly enough, television, which had played havoc with many entertainments, was to be snooker's salvation. In 1969 *Pot Black* appeared on the screens and was an instant success. It introduced snooker to a new audience, a section of the community hitherto ignorant of the game. Recorded over three and a half days per programme, directed by Jim Dunningham and painstakingly edited by the producer, Reg Perrin, *Pot Black* was shown all over the world.

It became its own executioner — each series of sixteen programmes was shown weekly over four months. The overwhelming popularity of its 30-minute airtime attracted a host of sponsors into the game, founding new

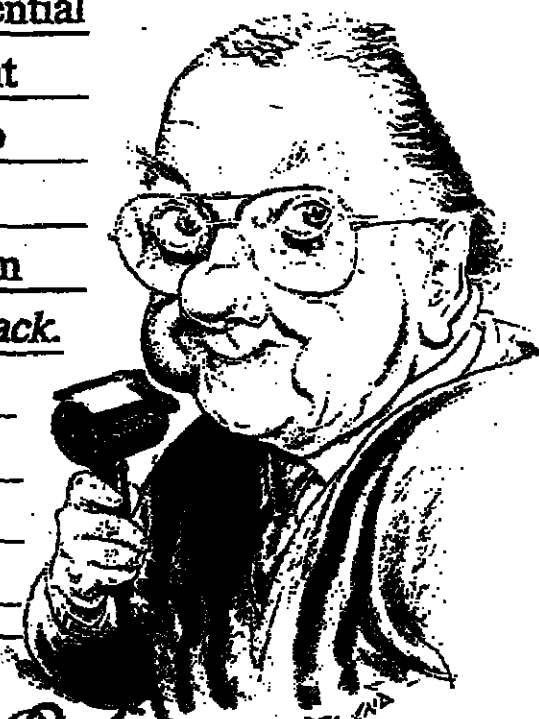
tournaments that eventually made *Pot Black* surplus to requirements.

Television has brought the biggest boom the game has ever seen. It has made mega-stars of some players and tournament prize-money now runs into millions of pounds annually. The playing calendar is so full that contestants sometimes find difficulty in getting from one venue to the next. The life of today's snooker star is a far cry from the daily chores of the pre-war professional.

A contract signed by the BBC guarantees the excitement and drama of big tournaments in Great Britain until 1996, and the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield will remain the home of the world championship, with all its thrills, until the same date.

Certainly, television has put the world championship equal to, if not above, Wimbledon or the Derby as a popular sporting event. Television has also given us those memories that for many would have held no interest a mere decade ago. How can we forget that famous night when a record 18.5 million people sat spellbound in the early hours, to watch Dennis Taylor sink the final black against Steve Davis and take the title. Then there was the picture of elation on the face of Cliff Thorburn as he knelt by the table when the last black dropped to record his championship maximum break in 1983.

Extracted from Ted Lowe's text for John Ireland's *Snooker Characters*, published by Queen Anne Press (£14.95). © Lennart Books Ltd.



**THE GRINDER**  
The very essence of the true snooker player can be found nowhere better than in the life of Jimmy White. He played truant from school to such a degree that his headmaster finally allowed his pupil afternoon absence in order to play snooker at the local billiard hall. His education suffered, but those afternoons were the stepping stones to world stardom. At 16, he was All England amateur snooker champion and within two years had become the youngest ever world amateur champion. Jimmy's natural ability is the envy of many top players but his flamboyant style has given away as many frames as some players have ever won. In maturity, he is more cautious.

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**STEVE DAVIS**  
Like the athlete struggling to take a second off his best time, Davis strives for absolute accuracy in every stroke he plays. He is a very private person, a gentleman both on and away from the table. Perhaps he is best summed up by the occasion on which his name was first inscribed on the coveted world championship trophy. We celebrated into the early hours while Davis lay on a couch, clutching the trophy and joining in the laughter. Then he just fell asleep amid all the hilarity. Born of a close-knit working-class family in Plumstead, south-east London, Davis is still accompanied everywhere by his father, Bill, who introduced him to billiards and then encouraged him.

**ALEX HIGGINS**  
Alex Higgins is controversial, self-destructive, unpredictable, sometimes aggressive and can be extremely pleasant. He has an undeniable talent, and love him or hate him, has never been a better box-office draw. He first bit the headlines in 1972 by winning the world title at his first attempt. Never out of the headlines, he took the title again ten years later. His quick thinking gave him a natural flair for the game and he would play for hours on end. He is completely self-taught, his style an absolute contrast to Steve Davis's. He is a rebel and does not have too much time for the establishment. He makes no attempt to conceal paths or dejection in defeat.

**STEPHEN HENDRY**  
Stephen Hendry was only 14 when he made his debut on television — in *Junior Pot Black 1983*. Then he was a 4ft 9in lad from Scotland, happy and proud to be wearing his first pair of long trousers. Now, seven years on, he is being acclaimed as a potential world champion and the second millionaire snooker player. His parents bought him a small table for Christmas and he has never looked back. Still a shy boy but now over 6ft tall, he matures in stature and performance with each passing day. Ably managed and guided by a Scottish businessman, Ian Doyle, this baby of the snooker profession has a very bright future indeed. Already he is the world's No. 2 player.

**JOHN PARROTT**  
Undoubtedly a character of the future is John Parrott. He has a great sense of humour. At 25, snooker has already taken Parrott all over the world since he turned professional in 1983 — from Australia and Hong Kong to China (where he won the Kent Cup) and to Europe, where in Deauville in 1989 he registered his first big ranking tournament win in the European Open. Parrott first came to prominence when only 17. He was invited on *Junior Pot Black* and won two of the three series recorded for TV. He has a unique record in the Pot Black series of Snooker: as an amateur, he won the junior and open tournaments; as a professional, he has taken both open and pro titles.

**BASEBALL**  
**Relief pitchers unable to contain Cincinnati**  
By Robert Kiley  
The Cincinnati Reds have thwarted their opponents' relief pitchers and won their first six games for the best start in the major leagues this season. The Reds were mired in controversy last year because of alleged gambling improprieties by Pete Rose, their manager, who has since been banned. The players have asserted their redoubtable talent in the National League West division. Led by their new manager, Lou Piniella, the Reds swept a three-game series in Houston, tying the game-winning hit off the relief pitcher, Charlie Kerfeld, of the Astros. Cincinnati then defeated the Atlanta Braves three times before opening at home against the San Diego Padres. Mark Langston and Mike Witt, of the California Angels, pitched the first two-man no-hitter for 14 years. Langston worked the first seven innings of the 1-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners; Witt had pitched the Angels' previous no-hitter, against Texas in 1984.

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Cricket's most famous twins continue their uncanny progression from such humble beginnings

# Bedders are on the brink of history

By Richard Streeton

THE most famous twins in cricket history add to their achievements tonight when Eric Bedder is due to be elected Surrey president at the club's annual meeting. Three years ago, Alec Bedder filled the same role.

There have been 14 instances of twins playing in English first-class cricket but no other pair have progressed to their county's highest office.

For Eric to scale this particular pinnacle in his own right emphasises his contribution to Surrey cricket. Inevitably, he is recalled as the twin who missed selection for England, unlike Alec who won 51 Test caps.

Unfortunately for Eric, his career as an off-spinning all-rounder coincided with the period when Laker was with Surrey and England.

The Bedders have shared such an interwoven existence all their lives that they regard their cricket careers as an entity. Eric becoming president will bring equal pleasure to both, just as Alec's Test match appearances did. They confirm there has never been an atom of jealousy between them about anything.

Even for identical twins, the Bedders, who are 72 in July, share an uncanny affinity. One can start writing a letter by hand and the other can finish it without the recipient being aware. They think as one person and, when they talk, one starts a sentence and the other finishes it.

But what about the void which will be left when one dies? "We have talked about this," Eric said. "We realize that the survivor will not expect to live very much longer alone, nor perhaps will he want to."

Eric was born 10 minutes earlier and, at 7lb, was four ounces heavier. They have always lived at Woking with their mother, who died, aged 96, last December. She was virtually the only person who was always able to tell them apart.

Once, when they were babies, even she made a mistake



Oval office: Eric Bedder surveys Surrey County Cricket Club and its surroundings yesterday. He is due to be elected club president this evening

and fed Eric twice before Alec noisily protested.

Lunching with them this week, it was easy to spot Eric because a recent Mediterranean holiday had temporarily left him with a better sun tan and a few extra pounds in weight.

The Bedders always resisted the temptation to hoax anybody during a first-class match. However, in the 1946 Surrey century game against Old England, Alec bowled three balls to Woolley before, unnoticed, he changed places at mid-off with Eric, who finished the over. Woolley

remarked to an umpire on "the young man's subtle changes of pace."

The cricket world has always understood that the Bedders, originally both fast-medium bowlers, tossed a coin to decide who should change his style. It was true that Surrey were well-endowed with seam bowlers, and that a change for one of them seemed sensible.

They cannot recall tossing a coin, however, and give the credit to Alan Peach, a former Surrey player and their first coach. Peach noticed Eric's ability to spin the ball, en-

couraged him in the habit, and it went from there.

No one doubts Eric would have done the double regularly had he played for a weaker county. His best all-round season was 1949, which brought him 1,740 runs, with a top score of 163, and 88 wickets.

The following summer, he had hardly bowled when he was given a chance in the notorious Bradford Test trial, and failed to do himself justice.

The Bedders were on opposite sides for the first time, and Eric was one of Laker's

victims as he took eight for two on a damaged pitch. It might not be generally known that Laker gave Eric a single, with a slow fall toss, to get off the mark, or his analysis might have been even more remarkable.

As president, Eric will play host to the Queen at the Foster's Oval on August 1, when she opens the Ken Barrington centre, grandstand and other new facilities.

Another highlight during Eric's term of office will be the club's efforts to raise funds for local youth cricket. No Surrey player has a benefit this year

and the club has a full-scale campaign planned, with John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, taking an active part.

The Bedders have come a long way since they first joined the Surrey staff 52 years ago, from what they admit was a humble background. They have retained all the basic and best human virtues instilled by their father, who was a bricklayer.

Eric's coming year as Surrey president seems certain to increase the respect and admiration everyone in cricket holds for them.

## Barnett takes all the tricks

By Jack Bailey

FENNER'S: Cambridge University, with nine second innings wickets in hand, are 350 behind Derbyshire.

As long as Cambridge learn from the day's experience, it will not have been all for Derbyshire's benefit. But in terms of a successful outing, it all went Derbyshire's way.

They bowled out the university in 60 overs, leaving them 226 behind on the first innings. Ignored the follow-on, successfully juggled their order to give practice to those who most needed it, and finally declared, giving the students 30 minutes batting in near darkness and facing a deficit of 353.

Heap is already out and Cambridge will need all their resources to stretch the game beyond tea on the last day.

Disappointingly swift inroads were made into the university batting yesterday morning.

James and Heap had resisted with some aplomb the previous evening, but now, with the pitch just that bit more juicy, Mortensen and Jean-Jacques moved in with a will.

Barnett off his new, spritely and longer run bamboozled the tail. A spell of three wickets for no runs in eight balls gave him obvious pleasure, although this was touched with chagrin as one of his googlies brushed Jenkins's pad, struck his wicketkeeper, Maher, under the right eye and caused three stitches to be inserted. These longer runs have their dangers.

DERBYSHIRE: First innings 332 for 4 dec (C Adams 111 not out, KJ Barnett 82, J G O'Brien 55, 40 overs).

Second innings  
B Roberts c Lowrey b Buzza 33  
S C Goldsmith b Buzza 51  
J G O'Brien b Buzza 30  
M Jean-Jacques not out 13  
Extras (lb 2, w 3) 5  
Total (2 wks dec) 127

"KJ Barnett, T J G O'Brien, C J Adams, A Kuper, A M Brown, J B M Maher, G H Mortensen did not bat."

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-86, 3-86, 4-86, 5-86, 6-86, 7-86, 8-86, 9-86, 10-86, 11-86, 12-86, 13-86, 14-86, 15-86, 16-86, 17-86, 18-86, 19-86, 20-86, 21-86, 22-86, 23-86, 24-86, 25-86, 26-86, 27-86, 28-86, 29-86, 30-86, 31-86, 32-86, 33-86, 34-86, 35-86, 36-86, 37-86, 38-86, 39-86, 40-86, 41-86, 42-86, 43-86, 44-86, 45-86, 46-86, 47-86, 48-86, 49-86, 50-86, 51-86, 52-86, 53-86, 54-86, 55-86, 56-86, 57-86, 58-86, 59-86, 60-86, 61-86, 62-86, 63-86, 64-86, 65-86, 66-86, 67-86, 68-86, 69-86, 70-86, 71-86, 72-86, 73-86, 74-86, 75-86, 76-86, 77-86, 78-86, 79-86, 80-86, 81-86, 82-86, 83-86, 84-86, 85-86, 86-86, 87-86, 88-86, 89-86, 90-86, 91-86, 92-86, 93-86, 94-86, 95-86, 96-86, 97-86, 98-86, 99-86, 100-86, 101-86, 102-86, 103-86, 104-86, 105-86, 106-86, 107-86, 108-86, 109-86, 110-86, 111-86, 112-86, 113-86, 114-86, 115-86, 116-86, 117-86, 118-86, 119-86, 120-86, 121-86, 122-86, 123-86, 124-86, 125-86, 126-86, 127-86, 128-86, 129-86, 130-86, 131-86, 132-86, 133-86, 134-86, 135-86, 136-86, 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# Sport

## Liverpool receive lift for Europe return

From Peter Ball  
Valletta, Malta

LENNART Johansson, the new president of the European Football Union (UEFA), cleared the way yesterday for Liverpool to return to European competition next season at the same time as the other English clubs.

"Europe needs English clubs in our competitions, and they need to come back into Europe," Johansson, who had been nominated for the presidency by the Football Association, said soon after his election at the twentieth congress here yesterday.

"I cannot see the problems being solved by continuing isolation. The ban has been long enough and, if the FA make an application for Liverpool to return next season, I could hardly see a reason to refuse."

In the aftermath of the Heysel disaster, when the ban

was first applied, Liverpool were given an extra three years to wait once English clubs returned.

There have been several suggestions that the punishment would be cut to one year but Johansson dismissed even that reduction. "That can be changed," he said.

This startling development took even the FA by surprise. But after hasty consultation with the chairman, Bert Millichip, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, confirmed that, if UEFA wished it, the FA saw no objection.

"There is no reason in our view to delay Liverpool's application any longer than the general application," Kelly said. "If the discussions between the government and the new UEFA president are satisfactory, and Liverpool are in one of the three qualifying places, we will ask UEFA to consider them."

PETER Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, welcomed yesterday's news (Ian Ross writes). "If this is true, then obviously we are very, very pleased indeed," he said. "If this club was to be allowed to return to European football, it would be a great morale-booster."

"We are fully aware, however, that everything will now hinge on the behaviour of English supporters during this summer's World Cup finals in Italy. If there was to be trouble in Italy, then obviously our chances of returning would recede quite dramatically."

"We are fully aware that both our supporters and our players have missed

the involvement with top-class European football. In many respects, it had become a way of life in Liverpool."

"It will also be a tremendous boost in purely financial terms. I would estimate that we have lost upwards of £500,000 per season during the course of our ban."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was also delighted at the news. "It is a major boost for ourselves and Crystal Palace to be fighting for a place in next season's Cup Winners' Cup," he said.

"But the most important thing is that the door is open again, and that English clubs are perhaps going to be welcomed

back."

Doug Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa, yesterday appealed to supporters in general not to undermine the imminent lifting of the UEFA ban.

Ellis, a member of the League management committee, is anxious that supporters are careful to safeguard the return to Europe by their conduct during the final domestic games and in Italy for the World Cup.

"For heaven's sake, supporters who go to Italy must remember they are English and as much a part of the scene as the England players," Ellis said. "We must not spoil it for ourselves again."

Football Spectators Act is up and running, that he will be able to report good progress in the talks he has had with the Italian government on submitting names of offenders, and we hope he will be able to point to the initiatives the FA have taken with the travel club."

If Moynihan fulfils these wishes, it is likely that will be enough to satisfy the UEFA president.

The Swede, who is even rumoured to support Arsenal, is a regular visitor to London and a great friend of English football. The importance of his election for the English cause cannot be overstated.

Such an encouraging development had scarcely seemed likely earlier in the day. In a long speech, the retiring president, Jacques Georges, left his listeners in no doubt that his interpretation of UEFA's requirements from the British

Government were more stringent than those of his successor.

"It is important to know what the British government will do," Georges said. "Will they allow footballers who are on file to take the ferry? This is inadmissible. The new UEFA government will have to go to London to contact all the authorities and say: 'What are you doing? Will you take measures to guarantee safety for spectators?'"

"If the president can feel assured, then my proposal that English clubs may be readmitted can go ahead. Until then, it would be suicide to allow them back without guarantees."

The glum expressions on the faces of the English delegation said everything that needed revealing at that stage. The election of Johansson rapidly changed their mood.

## Errant reporters will stand trial at football court

By John Goodbody

FOOTBALL reporters could be barred from attending post-match press conferences at league clubs next season if they are found guilty by a disciplinary panel of violating an agreed code of practice a second time after a warning.

In the most revolutionary move of its 42-year history, the Football Writers' Association (FWA) has also agreed with the Football League that for an experimental 12-month period, managers, or an acceptable club representative, plus at least two players from each team must go to the formal conference, which can only be attended by FWA members.

Members of the Press, who are not FWA members, or who are suspended or lose their membership of the association, will be forced to seek their interviews independently.

The FWA has agreed with the league that, if it accepts that a complaint from a league club about a journalist's work should be investigated, a panel under the chairmanship of Denis Howell, the former Sports Minister, will be convened. It will consist of two FWA members, two representatives from the Football League and one representative from both the Football League Executive Staff Association and the Professional Footballers' Association.

If the panel finds the complaint justified it will have the

power to warn a journalist. For a second offence, the journalist's FWA membership could be withdrawn and for a third, he or she could be expelled from the association.

Among the reasons why a complaint could be upheld are: a lack of truth or invention in an article; a deliberate misquote; and a failure to make full and proper efforts to corroborate information received as sheer hearsay.

The panel will also consider complaints from FWA members against managers over allegations of lying and, if proved, a manager could be censured. It is hoped that tape recordings will be kept of all post-match interviews.

The FWA emphasises that the body is open to all journalists for an annual subscription of £20, and its sole object is to improve standards of journalism and the status of football reporters, who for many years have been obliged to have hurried interviews with managers and players outside dressing rooms and in car parks.

There are 230 members of the association. The criterion for membership is that the individual must earn two-thirds of his or her income by writing about the game. Associate membership, which will confer the same privileges and penalties on the holder for press conferences next season as a full member, is open to TV and radio broadcasters

and other journalists who do not earn two-thirds of their income from covering the game.

The majority of journalists reporting the game are FWA members. In the course of two years of negotiations with the league, the association has been keen to improve its image and secure the cooperation of the game's authorities by obliging officials and players to attend press conferences, as is commonplace in other sports.

In tennis, a professional player is obliged to be interviewed by the media within 30 minutes of the end of the match unless injured or physically unable to be present. Refusal renders the player liable to a fine of \$1,000.

In golf, a player is expected to attend a press conference and the PGA European Tour regulations state that the requirement for players to give full cooperation to the press "needs no underlining". However, in neither sport are there any sanctions on journalists.

A spokesman for the National Union of Journalists said yesterday: "We are pleased to see journalists working under a code of practice that seeks to establish high standards in football reporting."

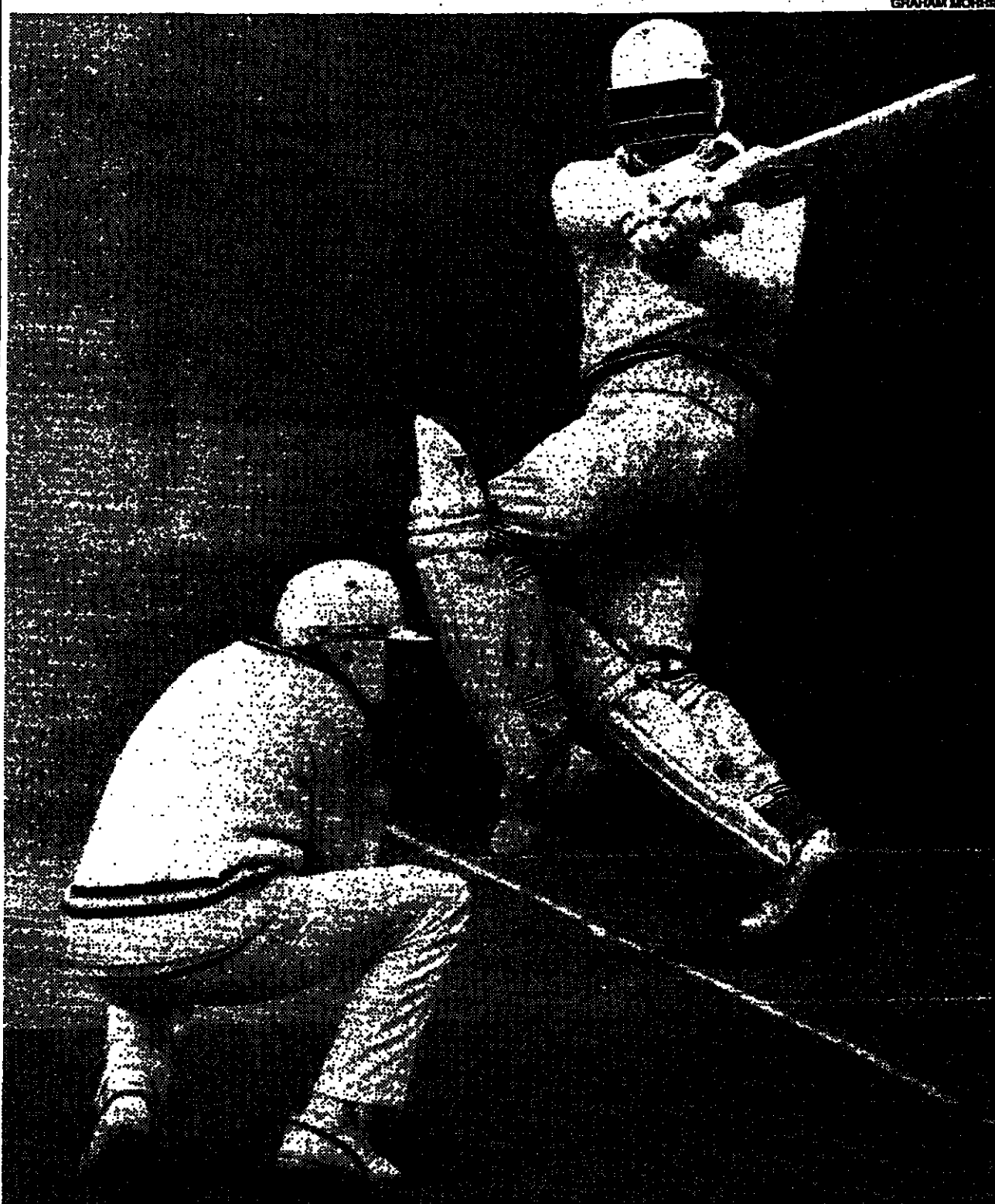
However, he said two things worried the union. One was whether some reporters covering football games who are not members of the association would be barred from press conferences. "It is an important principle of journalism that press conferences should be open to all bona fide journalists who want to cover them."

The NUJ was also worried about the disputes procedure because it appeared to be set up with a majority of administrators from the game rather than journalists to decide whether there had been a breach of the code of conduct.

He said: "Journalists work under their own code of conduct under which they are subject to their union and their employer. We would not be happy if a football reporter could have his livelihood taken away by a body largely composed of administrators of the game that he is writing about."

However, the FWA emphasised that it is setting up an appeals procedure and that individuals would not endanger their livelihood because they could still report games and interview officials and players independently.

## Botham gets back into the swing



Take that: Botham strikes a typical blow to the boundary yesterday for Worcestershire against MCC at Lord's

## Hailstorm brings welcome relief

By John Woodcock

LORD'S: Worcestershire, with three first innings wickets in hand, are 96 runs behind MCC in the 28.1 overs that were bowled between the showers at Lord's yesterday.

Worcestershire took their first innings from 181 for three to 289 for seven. It was, to be honest, a merciful release when a hailstorm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, turned the ground into a snowscape and caused play to be abandoned soon after five o'clock.

Although he batted for only 40 minutes, much the most interesting and challenging cricket came when Botham was in. There was really no noticeable difference from the way he played yesterday and

how he might have done, say, 10 years ago. He skimmed Watkin over mid-off's head for four and then pulled him for six, admittedly over the tiny Tavern boundary.

The trouble was, as kept happening last year when he made a start, he got out rather than going on.

Had he not been in such useful form, the chances are that he would have missed the ball from Cowans that did for him — it left him quite sharply — instead of edging it to Heggs. However, at No. 4 in the order, where he is to start the season, Botham will not want for opportunities to embarrass the selectors.

In making 72, most of them on Wednesday evening, Hick was never quite at his best,

surviving several close calls for leg-before and only occasionally producing something beyond the ordinary mortal. All the same, it took a blinding catch to get rid of him — by Parker at second slip, off the endlessly willing but often wayward Lawrence.

In his 25.1 overs, Lawrence has bowled 27 no-balls. If that is part carelessness, it points, too, to some lack of co-ordination. I wonder whether he has ever visited a long jump coach: they have sorted fast bowlers out before now who have had problems with their run-up.

The most successful of MMC's bowlers was Watkin, whose 94 wickets put him at the very top of the list in 1989. He is one of those for whom

the balls being used this year, with their much less prominent seams, are expected to make life a good deal harder. But in this match, even on an excellent pitch, he has not suffered as much as he no doubt will when it gets warmer and drier. Nor, for that matter, did Botham when he was bowling.

Worcestershire's first innings scores: 181 for three (28.1 overs). MCC's first innings scores: 289 for seven (40.1 overs).

Worcestershire's second innings scores: 289 for seven (40.1 overs). MCC's second innings scores: 181 for three (28.1 overs).

## Davis gets control of game and his maths

By Steve Acton

STEVE Davis came to Sheffield this year perhaps more open to doubt than he could win the Embassy world championship than at any time since his first visit to the Crucible in 1979 when he lost in the first round to Dennis Taylor as a callow youth of 21.

Eleven years and six world titles later he has this season endured the longest losing streak of his career between tournament victories in October and on April 1. It was considered he had become vulnerable. Those thoughts, he is swiftly proving, were heresy.

Having dismissed Eddie Charlton by 10-1 in the opening round, he yesterday opened a big lead over Steve James, the Mercantile Credit Classic winner, and last night required only two more frames to reach the quarter-finals.

The previous night, Davis had compiled breaks of 117, 52, 70, 34 and 77 and yet still led James by only 5-3. The fact that he was not 6-2 ahead was a simple matter of mathematics. Chipping up, he thought, to force a renewed black in frame seven, Davis noticed the pink and with only the black left suddenly realized he was eight points in arrears and not seven.

Yesterday, Davis played a tighter game. He made best breaks of only 61, 30 and 31 in eight frames but it was still a classic performance, for Davis, the most merciless of opponents, was more intent upon punishing James's array of blunders.

Davis won the opening frame after James had missed three simple reds and when he perpetrated the same error in the next Davis compiled his fourth half century break of the match. Frames three and four of the morning also fell to Davis, the latter when James missed a simple blue.

RESULTS: (England unless stated): Second round: Steve Davis 11-5 Steve James 3-5. First round: Steve Davis 11-5 Steve James 3-5. Quarter-finals: Steve Davis 11-5 Steve James 3-5. Semi-finals: Steve Davis 11-5 Steve James 3-5. Final: Steve Davis 11-5 Steve James 3-5.

## US hurdler banned for drug-use

INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) — Greg Foster, the American Olympic hurdler, has been suspended for three months for using banned substances. The Athletics Congress (AC) announced yesterday.

Foster, the silver medal winner in the high hurdles at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, tested positive for pseudo-ephedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine at the Los Angeles Invitational indoor meeting on January 19. TAC said the substances were stimulants commonly found in over-the-counter medications but which were banned by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

If the decision is upheld by a TAC review board, Foster will be suspended for three months from March 29. This would prevent him from qualifying for the Goodwill Games this summer in Seattle.

Foster also won the world outdoor title in the 110 metre hurdles in Helsinki in 1983 and Rome in 1987.

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## Injected sheep cells alter rider's form

By John Goodbody

A BELGIAN professional cyclist won the Paris-Roubaix classic after being injected with cells from the placenta of an unborn lamb, a rejuvenation treatment undergone by many showbusiness personalities, including Britt Ekland, Frank Sinatra and Patrick MacNee of *The Avengers*.

Although the "cure", administered at clinics in Switzerland and Germany, has been popular for many years, it is believed to be the first time that a leading sportsman has used the treatment to help improve his performance.

Eddy Planckaert took the injections in January because he said he was beginning to feel tired after nine years'

professional riding. His victory in the Paris-Roubaix ride, known as *Le Hell of the North* because of the stretches of cobbles, was his third win in six weeks' racing.

"The treatment has nothing to do with doping," Planckaert is quoted as saying by *L'Equipe*, the French daily sports newspaper. "It was even recommended by my doctor."

The "cure", which he underwent in a clinic at Clavens in Switzerland, cost him 40,000 French francs (about £4,000), and he was so delighted with the result that he is going to send his mother, aged 72, to have the same treatment.

Peter Bonthuis, the man-

ager of the Panasonic team for which Planckaert has ridden this season, said: "He is certainly going very well at the moment." Asked if he thought the injections had made any difference to his performances, Bonthuis replied: "Well one does not know what would have happened if he had not taken them. They certainly do not seem to have harmed him."

Doctor Jean Ginsburg, an endocrinologist at the Royal Free Hospital, said that the placenta was a remarkable organ, as it produces both steroid and peptide. "However, I am not aware that any extract injected into a competitor will affect the performance. It is not like a synthetic steroid. He might

have won the race whether he had been given the injection or not."

None of the rest of the Panasonic riders has undergone the treatment, which Planckaert underwent while between contracts because he did not join his new team until the start of this season.

Planckaert has won 13 stages of the major tours and took the green jersey in the 1988 Tour de France for the best daily placing. He has also twice won the Her Volk Classic.

## Past master

The Nastase will be one of the eight players taking part in the Leading Ladies Masters tennis tournament at Basingstoke next month.

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